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Tuesday, 26 April 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Third report of the General Committee (A/70/250/Add.2)

The President: I invite the General Assembly to direct its attention to the third report of the General Committee. In paragraph 1 (a) of the report, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration" be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include an additional item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration" in the agenda of the current session under heading I?

It was so decided.

The President: In paragraph 1 (b), the General Committee further recommends that the item be considered directly in plenary meeting. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to consider the item directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President: I should like to inform members that the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration" becomes agenda item 175 in the agenda of the current session.

Agenda item 73 (*continued*)

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

(d) Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Special commemorative meeting of the Assembly in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe

The President: Many of us remember the horror and fear that we all felt 30 years ago when the nuclear accident happened in Chernobyl, in what is now Ukraine — the most severe accident in the history of the nuclear-power industry. The accident caused a huge release of radionuclides over large areas of Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation; devastated the region's mostly rural economy and uprooted more than 300,000 people. Livelihoods lost almost 30 years ago have yet to recover fully and many affected are still struggling to overcome poverty, exclusion and the stigma of contaminated regions.

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Today, we remember the human cost of the disaster. We remember those who sacrificed their own lives to prevent this disaster from becoming even worse. We take stock of the many problems that still linger and we look ahead towards solutions that hold promise for the affected communities. And we renew our commitment to a safer future. Let us acknowledge the Governments of the three countries most affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe — Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation — for working to protect the affected populations from the effects of radiation, to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and to build a better future for the communities.

The General Assembly and the United Nations Development Programme — as coordinator of all United Nations activities related to the Chernobyl accident these past years — have also played an important role. This year, alongside this thirtieth anniversary, we also mark the end of the decade of recovery and sustainable development for Chernobyl-affected regions.

A series of activities are taking place in the affected countries, including a high-level conference in Minsk, which began yesterday and a photo exhibition, entitled "Chernobyl, tragedy, lessons, hope", is on display in the Secretariat building now. These activities will be followed by a report of the Secretary-General and action during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. Moving forward, we continue to demonstrate international solidarity, so that those most affected by this accident will be able to recover to the fullest.

Before proceeding further, I should like to consult members with a view to inviting Mr. Edmond Mulet, Under-Secretary-General and Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, to make a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General on this occasion.

If there is no objection, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly, without setting a precedent, to invite Mr. Edmond Mulet to make a statement at this commemorative meeting?

It was so decided.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Edmond Mulet, Under-Secretary-General and Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, to make a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Mr. Mulet: We are here to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, the most serious nuclear accident in history. I am pleased to address the Assembly on behalf of the Secretary-General. The disaster led to grave humanitarian, environmental, social and economic consequences. It cast a radioactive plume across a wide area of northeastern Europe and its effects are still being felt in the region and around the world.

This anniversary offers an opportunity to take stock of lessons learned, reflect on the recovery process and to appreciate, once again, the heroic efforts of the first responders who rushed to the damaged reactor on 26 April 1986 and sacrificed their health, and in many cases their lives, to save others. The tragedy of Chernobyl will always be linked with nuclear safety. The accident led to a new awareness of safety issues and to major improvements in the regulation of nuclear plants around the world.

The Chernobyl disaster also brought the international community together to support the enormous efforts of local, regional and national authorities. I particularly commend the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine for their joint work. The most visible sign of current international cooperation efforts may be the New Safe Confinement structure, which is now nearing completion and should make the reactor complex stable and environmentally safe for the next 100 years. We all owe gratitude to the Governments and international institutions that contributed to the costs of this record-breaking structure.

Since 1986, the United Nations has helped to address the needs of people in the areas surrounding Chernobyl, first through emergency and humanitarian aid, and then by supporting recovery and social and economic development, which still continue. The United Nations has also helped to provide essential information on the continuing impact of radiation on local communities.

I commend the success of the development approach adopted 10 years ago and led by the United Nations Development Programme. Communities that were affected by the accident are now more self-reliant and self-sufficient and lessons have been learned for the future. Knowledge gained from the tragedy at Chernobyl is helping other people and communities around the world to protect themselves and to recover from trauma, including during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear emergency of 2011.

There is a growing risk of disasters in which natural events combine with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear crises. At the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May, the Secretary-General will ask leaders to consider multidisciplinary strategies that include prevention, preparedness and response.

Looking ahead, long-term recovery efforts around Chernobyl must be linked to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution70/1) to leave no one behind applies above all to those caught up in crises around the world; those who have struggled for years to overcome fears about their health and livelihoods; and those who continue to demonstrate their resilience as they walk the road to recovery and development. Their loss and pain will never be forgotten.

The President: I thank the Under-Secretary-General and Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General for his statement on behalf of the Secretary-General.

I now give the floor to the representative of Belarus.

Ms. Roche (Belarus): Thirty years ago today, at exactly 1.23 a.m. on 26 April 1986, a chain of events in reactor number 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear-power station led to a massive explosion spewing deadly radioactive contamination into the beautiful night sky, where the blowing winds scattered it far and wide, unfolding at terrifying speed and thereby triggering what has become the world's worst nuclear disaster. A new word, "Chernobyl", entered into the history of language, the history of world disasters and the history of the world with deadly and frightful force. The sun shone, the wind blew, rain fell down and so did the radioactive poison.

My name is Adi Roche and I am from the Republic of Ireland. Today, on this day of worldwide remembrance and reflection on the tragedy that is Chernobyl, I am given the opportunity of addressing the General Assembly thanks to the generosity of the Belarusian Government and Mission.

I cannot speak to the Assembly with the authority of a scientist or doctor; I cannot prove my statements with laboratory or field test experiments, for I have no medical or scientific academic qualifications to endorse my remarks. But, in humility, I can offer the Assembly my truth, my witness and my evidence of the heart. I have visited and worked in the Chernobyl area for 30 long years and I am still haunted by the stories of the people I have met during that time — women like Tanya from a demolished village in southern Belarus called Lipa. I remember that she talked about how she was forever rooted like a tree to the earth of her ancestors, but now she was withering away and dying. Shaking her head in disbelief, she said:

> "We did not just lose our village, we lost life. Chernobyl is like a big stone in my heart, always heavy, always present, and now the song of this village has come to an end."

And there was Pavel, head of his family, who remained in that village. When I asked him why he remained in that contaminated place, he knelt on the ground and picked up two fist fulls of earth, and with tears running down his face, he kissed that earth and he said,

> "This earth is sacred. It is the earth of my ancestors. This earth is my soul. If you take me from the earth and you take my soul."

Pavel, and thousands like him, have suffered the great loss of place, community and history forever.

Chernobyl, and now sadly Fukushima, is very bleak and dark forever — a sin against the beauty and wonder of our beautiful planet Earth, a sin against ordinary decent people. There may be an impression that 30 years on Chernobyl is something from the past, that it no longer poses a threat to the world, but the reality is very different. Chernobyl is not from the past; Chernobyl is, sadly, forever. The impact of that single shocking nuclear accident cannot be undone. Its radioactive footprint is embedded in our world forever and countless millions of people are still being affected by its deadly legacy. We may never know the full extent of the contamination, we may never be able to prove it as if it were a simple geometry proposition, but the tragedy that is Chernobyl is very real.

Three weeks ago, I returned to the highly contaminated "zones of alienation", "zones of exclusion", as they are called, that surround the Chernobyl plant and beyond. I was there on a fact-finding mission, and while there, I was asked by some of the men who heroically fought for days and months to contain the spreading of that radioactive fire, the men who carried out the evacuations of towns and villages, the men who had to demolish and bury and burn 2,000 towns and villages, to bring their stories and their voices to this gathering today.

Today, I wear this Chernobyl service medal with great pride, deep respect and a deep sense of responsibility. This photograph was given to me by a liquidator military officer called Valerii Zaitsev. I hold the photograph in this Hall in acknowledgement of the work that men like Valerii and others did in order to protect our planet. There were 700,000 of these men — the liquidators — and they were ordinary people. They were soldiers; they were civilians; they were helicopter pilots, firemen, miners and engineers. They were sent into the Chernobyl nuclear conflagration. Valerii and his gallant comrades fought the highly radioactive fire at Chernobyl. It was their Ground Zero. Like the brave rescue services, the heroes of 9-11 in New York's terrible catastrophe, they, the Chernobyl liquidators, these noble and self-sacrificing men, ought to be rightly honoured and recognized as the heroes, who not just saved Europe, but really saved the world from greater catastrophe. Many of the Chernobyl liquidators feel that they have not been so honoured; in fact, they feel that they have been dishonoured, neglected, abandoned and forgotten by the world.

So, my first appeal to the Assembly is that these heroic men, these first responders of the nuclear accident age — the liquidators — be recognized and that the world set up a global fund to ensure their medical and social needs are taken care of. In honouring my pledge to Valerii and the thousands of other brave fighters, I respectfully place this request before the floor of this House.

Secondly, I also respectfully propose that this day, 26 April, be pledged and designated as an official United Nations Chernobyl day — a day that would always be honoured and commemorated and be a day for renewal and recommitment to discover new initiatives to alleviate further the suffering of the people in the affected stricken lands.

Thirdly, I would like to say that to prevent the next Chernobyl from becoming Chernobyl itself, I ask that the United Nations urgently use its power and influence to propel forward the completion of the new sarcophagus, the vital safety shield over the exploded reactor, which is critical to ensuring that we can contain the highly radioactive materials, which are rumbling and lurking still in reactor 4, and that we move swiftly to the next phase — phase two of dismantling the reactor and safely finding a way to remove and store what will be hundreds of tons of highly radioactive material. This project is a challenge because it has never been done before and will require new technology, new thinking and new expertise.

Fourthly, I also humbly ask for the provision to be made to fund access to clean food and adequate food monitoring, in order to protect the citizens still living in the stricken regions.

Fifthly, I ask that monitoring and radiation check-ups of people be reinstated throughout the stricken regions, along with the provision of the most up-to-date medical and scanning equipment, ensuring extensive ongoing monitoring, particularly for children and pregnant mothers living in the contaminated zones.

Finally, I ask that the contaminated zones of highly radioactive land be kept free of cultivation and repopulation.

All representatives in this Hall are moms or dads or grandparents maybe, and some members are aunts and uncles. Today, I ask representatives to remember and honour the children, the innocent children of Chernobyl. So much has been lost and so much has been compromised. Surely, we owe it to them to do all we can to safeguard their health, their happiness and their right to a safe and secure future, because children are every nation's greatest treasure. They are our greatest asset. They are our bequest to future generations, and yet, they are usually voiceless and anonymous.

I represent them also here today. I am a voice among other voices, other voices who speak up and out for the protection and value of all children. Let those voices be heard today rising from this great Assembly. For while other disasters are vying for the entire Assembly's attention, unfortunately Chernobyl is often relegated to the realms of history and the past, probably because the images from the tragedy are so different from the deeply disturbing images of war, famine and other disasters in which we can see the immediacy of a bomb, a bullet or starvation.

However, the war that has been waged since 1986 by Chernobyl is a silent, invisible but nonetheless deadly one. It has no smell, no taste and nothing to forewarn of danger. There was no safe haven, escape or emergency exit. Yet it beats in the hearts of every innocent man, woman and child still living. It beats in their rivers, towns, streams and forests — the deadly radiation, clicking endlessly and ferociously in Geiger counters, into the silent numbness that is and always will be Chernobyl.

Former General-Secretary Kofi Annan really encapsulated his understanding of the tragedy when he said,

> "Chernobyl is a word we would all much prefer to wipe out from our memories, as it recalls an event which opened a Pandora's box of invisible enemies".

Those enemies will stalk the land for the rest of time. Those sobering words act as a stark reminder of our need to be vigilant in the protection of our planet and environment. The great Welsh poet Dylan Thomas urged us, "Do not go gentle into that good night [but] rage, rage against the dying of the light".

Today, on the thirtieth anniversary of one of the blackest and darkest moments of human history, let us rage against the dying light — that dimming light of not doing enough, neglect, forgetfulness, abandonment or even indifference. Let us rage against that dimming light today on this thirtieth anniversary. Let us rage, renew and rekindle our commitment to the innocent victims of Chernobyl. Let us restore their lives and their hopes, and let us from this hallowed Hall say to them, once more:

> "You are not forgotten, you are not irrelevant and you are not peripheral. We will do together our utmost to care for and protect you. We are brothers and your sisters, and your pain and suffering are also ours".

Those here today represent not just their Presidents, their Prime Ministers and their Governments; they also represent the common men, women and children of their countries and of the planet. I ask them to please listen and act, and let us together rededicate our efforts today to further alleviate the plight of the innocent victims and survivors of Chernobyl, offering them that most precious and enabling gift of all — the gift of hope.

As we are here at the United Nations, let us relight that beacon of hope in the heart of hope of the General Assembly. Let that beacon-light flash throughout our planet. But especially, let that light of hope fly to the dear people and lands of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, to say to them,

> "Look! look! The flame is not quenched and the beacon is still alight. Gather near and gather strength from its light and warmth, because you are not forgotten and not alone. You are among friends and neighbours who care and who want to share in your plight — not just with fine words, but with positive and life-changing initiatives of action. For there is always hope."

There must be hope, and that hope lies with all Member States.

The President: I now call on the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I would like to warmly thank everyone in attendance at this solemn occasion. At the outset, I would like to sincerely thank you, Sir, for convening this meeting, and the delegation of Belarus for such an emotional introduction to our debate.

The catastrophic nuclear accident that we recall today occurred on 26 April 1986 at the Chernobyl nuclear-power plant in the Ukrainian town of Prypyat, which at the time was under the direct jurisdiction of the central authorities of the former Soviet Union. As has been proved, the Chernobyl disaster was the worst nuclear-power-plant accident in history in terms of cost and casualties. For Ukraine in its modern history, the scale of the catastrophe can be compared only to the famine of 1933, the Second World War and the Russian aggression and occupation from 2014 to the present.

Prior to Chernobyl, humankind had not known such a technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and the complexity of the long-term humanitarian, environmental, health, social and economic consequences. Addressing the impact of the Chernobyl disaster is a matter of national significance for Ukraine. For 30 years, my country has made every effort to improve the well-being of affected communities and revive the afflicted districts' economic potential. The catastrophe disrupted the livelihoods of over 1,960,000 people in more than 2,200 affected locations. Strengthening the resilience of affected communities and restoring their self-reliance is the foundation for their sustainable development and our utmost priority.

In that regard, the shift from the restoration of the area to its sustainable socioeconomic development can take place only if radiation safety requirements are fully met. Therefore, Ukraine places emphasis on converting the shelter facility into an environmentally safe system and completing the construction of the New Safe Confinement. At the same time, significant progress has been made with regard to the development of infrastructure for the safe long-term management of radioactive waste and the handling of depleted nuclear fuel. We are moving ahead to the final stage of mitigating the consequences of the disaster, namely, the dismantling of unstable structures, extracting the fuel-containing materials and converting them to make them safe.

The Chernobyl disaster has had a serious political and security impact, and it changed attitudes towards many aspects of everyday life, in particular to the nuclear-energy industry and its safeguards. International regulations and standards for radioactive protection have been substantially revised, as have national strategies for nuclear energy development, nuclear safety and radioactive waste management.

Effectively overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, especially transforming the confinement into an ecologically safe system, is very much affected by the need to withstand Russian aggression. In those challenging circumstances, international cooperation is essential. Throughout the years, the United Nations system, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Union have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to helping Ukraine with the restoration of the affected areas. We express our sincere gratitude for their support in implementing international projects aimed at the sustained recovery and development of afflicted districts.

Today the global terrorist threat in the context of peaceful nuclear development is an emerging international issue.Therefore, Ukraine welcomes the focus of the international community on the physical protection of nuclear material, as well as the coming into effect of the nuclear security agreement on 8 May, reducing the risk of a terrorist attack on nuclear-power plants.

We remain committed to the rehabilitation of the affected areas, enhancing the radiation monitoring system, and addressing issues related to the construction of an industrial facility for deactivating, transporting, processing and disposing of radioactive waste. Our plan also includes the creation of a research and environmental protection centre that will collect and synthesize existing research and a training system for nuclear and radiation security specialists.

This year we have reached an important benchmark, namely, the completion of the United Nations Action Plan on Chernobyl and the 2006-2016 Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions. However, there is a clear need for a continuous effort to keep the issue of post-Chernobyl recovery high on the inter-agency and international agendas. It is important to give a stronger voice to the human dimension of preparedness for and recovery from nuclear emergencies at the United Nations level and to incorporate that knowledge and experience into development programming worldwide.

The approach to studying. mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster may serve as a guide for dealing with similar emergencies in the future. The solutions can be applied to and replicated in other nuclear-disaster situations worldwide. Therefore, the post-2016 international Chernobyl cooperation, in particular any new General Assembly resolution, should include the goal of broader dissemination of knowledge and expertise for the sake of sustainable technological risk management, disaster prevention, response and recovery.

Ukraine declared 2016 as a year of remembrance of the liquidators and victims of the Chernobyl disaster. We believe that goal-oriented cooperation among all Government agencies, non-governmental and international organizations will not only result in long-term solutions to the complex problems triggered by the Chernobyl accident, but will also optimize the knowledge gained for the common good in order to prevent any future nuclear disasters. I take this opportunity to invite all participants in this meeting to the official opening of the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster exhibition, which will take place today at 1 p.m. in front of Conference Room 1.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Kononuchenko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank you, Sir, for convening this meeting. Today marks the thirtieth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear-power plant — one of the largest man-made disasters of the twentieth century — which affected the territories of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. At that time, no similar incident anywhere in the world had ever been endowed with the same gravity, the same scale of radioactive contamination or the same number of people who were affected, and this required a huge investment in intellectual and material resources to overcome the catastrophe.

In the most difficult initial period following the accident, hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens, including more than 200,000 Russian liquidators, were involved in the cleanup. Today we bow before their bravery. They risked their lives and in so doing fulfilled their duty and prevented the further contamination of very damaging radioactive emissions. Despite the selfless work of the liquidators and the nation-wide emergency measures to minimize the consequences of the accident, radioactive contamination affected an enormous area, including more than 59,000 square kilometres of Russian territory that were home to more than 3 million people.

Another fact that has not lost its relevance is the long-term objective of overcoming the consequences of the accident. Minimizing these on the basis of new technologies would be in everyone's common interest. That is the direction we need to move towards on the basis both of technology and of the financial potential of the entire international community. The Russian Federation is working to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl disaster, including by constantly monitoring background radiation levels; improving the medical care and everyday conditions of citizens who live in the affected territories; working with participants and their families in liquidation; and rehabilitating agricultural and forest land. This component is an essential part of several federal programmes that cover more than 1 million Russian citizens.

The consequences of Chernobyl affect more than one State. Russia is working actively with other countries and international organizations on this issue. This year we will see the final assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan for the 2006-2016 Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions. We thank the United Nations Development Programme for coordinating this work and helping to implement joint projects.

The Russian Federation has made a significant contribution to the development of post-Chernobyl cooperation. We consistently advocate continuing to work with all partners, particularly the countries of the Chernobyl troika, under United Nations auspices, with the inclusion of this issue in the global context of sustainable development for the post-2016 period. That format will ensure maximum results, including through the involvement of a broad number of external partners in the efforts that the parties will undertake in the foreseeable future We will continue to build practical cooperation in disaster risk reduction through the United Nations Inter-agency Group. It should maintain its function as the coordinating and executive centre for international Chernobyl cooperation.

I should like to touch on another important aspect — guaranteeing energy security. Humankind has learned lessons from Chernobyl. To a certain extent, the accident at Fukushima led us to also rethink those lessons. We have become more careful and more cautious. That is a fact. But at the same time we also understand that nuclear energy is unique both in its efficiency and in its minimal impact on the environment compared to other sources. That is why we continue to use atomic energy for the benefit of humankind, not forgetting the high degree of responsibility borne by the owners and operators of nuclear-energy infrastructure.

It is regrettable that even today, on this sad ceremonial day honouring the memory of the heroes of Chernobyl and all of those who suffered in the Chernobyl accident, the representative of Ukraine could not refrain from vile insinuations that are in no way relevant to the discussion of this very important subject on our item today.

The President: I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation for the victims of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

The members of the General Assembly observed one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Uganda, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Nduhuura (Uganda): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of African States in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. Coincidentally, 10 years ago, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, my country, as the then Chair of the African Group, also spoke on behalf of the African Group (see A/60/PV.77). Today, the African Group once again joins the rest of the international community in standing in solemn remembrance of a tragedy that has gone down in history as the worst nuclear accident ever. We stand in solidarity with the affected countries and applaud their efforts to build resilience through national strategies to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Ten years on, the African Group also notes progress in the strengthening of international cooperation and United Nations system-wide coordination, and further calls for accelerated progress in the full implementation of the third decade, proclaimed as the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions. Our collective resolve and commitment in honour of the victims of the Chernobyl can be meaningful only if we strive to achieve the goal of a return to normal life for the affected communities within this third decade. The African Group remains resolutely committed to working towards achieving that goal.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Mr. Khoshroo (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States. On this thirtieth anniversary of the disastrous nuclear accident at Chernobyl, the Asia-Pacific Group honours the memory of the accident victims who lost their lives or health, remembers those men and women who continue to suffer from the radioactive fallout of the Chernobyl catastrophe, and pays tribute to the heroic actions of those relief workers who risked their lives to protect people from the harmful effects of the accident.

This occasion is also an opportunity to recall the achievements made over the past 30 years in dealing with the harmful and costly legacy of the Chernobyl disaster. However, we recognize that much more remains to be done to promote the recovery of the affected region. We acknowledge the achievements and ongoing efforts of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as the three countries most affected by Chernobyl, to protect their populations from the effects of radiation, mitigate the consequences of the accident, rebuild the affected areas and promote socioeconomic development. We stress the importance of continuing international support for such efforts.

We commend the important contributions and assistance provided so far by the United Nations in response to the Chernobyl disaster. We recall that in 2007, the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/9, on Chernobyl, proclaiming the period from 2006 to 2016 as the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions. In that context, we welcome the progress made in the implementation of the 2008 United Nations Action Plan on Chernobyl. We encourage the international community and United Nations agencies to strengthen cooperation and assistance on Chernobyl with the objective of promoting the recovery of the affected communities and ensuring their sustainable development.

Finally, the events at Chernobyl and later at Fukushima remind us that nuclear accidents know no borders. Those tragic events remind us of the vital importance of nuclear safety and the continuing need to work to ensure and strengthen nuclear safety. We must remain determined to prevent similar nuclear accidents.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Belarus, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Dapkiunas (Belarus): Today, the Group of Eastern European States calls for remembrance of the severe disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear-power plant in Ukraine that led to the loss of human lives and had significant health, environmental and economic consequences in the countries of our region. We pay tribute to those who died at the time of the catastrophe and those who carried out the first response and paid the price with their lives or sacrificed their health and well-being. We stand in solidarity with those who live in the affected areas in our countries.

It was one of the biggest man-made disasters and it affected not only our region. It was a tragedy for the entire international community. Nevertheless, it gave rise to one of the most remarkable examples of comprehensive, global cooperation to overcome the consequences of a major disaster. It changed the way countries dealt with nuclear power by improving safety and security and stimulating a more cautious attitude to technological progress.

In that context, the importance of international standards in nuclear safety and security cannot be underestimated. The Chernobyl disaster encouraged countries using nuclear energy to initiate the Convention on Nuclear Safety and later, following the Fukushima accident, to adopt the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety. The disaster led to the allocation of enormous domestic and international resources to development, health care, environmental protection and agriculture in the affected regions.

For almost 30 years the United Nations has been playing a crucial role by coordinating multilateral assistance to mitigate the long-term consequences at the community, national, regional and global levels. In that respect, we acknowledge with appreciation the role of the entire United Nations family and the United Nations Development Programme and its Administrator as the current United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl.

As one of the results of such cooperation, the global community has gained unique knowledge and mastered best practices and experience on how to prevent, address and resolve the long-term consequences of man-made disasters. It highlighted one of the primary lessons of Chernobyl, namely, that the international community should stay vigilant, prepared and united in the face of such disasters, as was witnessed, for instance, in the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011.

The lessons of Chernobyl and other nuclear accidents oblige us to develop nuclear technologies in conformity with the letter and the spirit of international nuclear safety and security requirements. Countries must assume responsibility for their own peoples and those of the whole world when planning, developing and operating nuclear facilities. That is the most reliable and efficient way to prevent similar disasters from happening, as the cost of mistakes is much too high for our world.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

But even more than a technological disaster, Chernobyl was and remains an enormous human tragedy that showed us the fragility of our world. It revealed the importance of the simple things that keep humanity alive — caring for loved ones, empathy for the suffering of others and willingness to lend a helping hand to those in need. The lesson of Chernobyl that we all still have to learn by heart is about how easily those plain but vital things can collapse, and how challenging it is to repair them through assistance, dialogue and cooperation.

Preserving a positive, forward-looking Chernobyl agenda is not only the way to keep remembrance. Its meaning is also about investing in our future through enhancing partnership and cooperation, working for greater safety worldwide, reducing the risk of disasters and preserving knowledge and experience. In paying respect to the past, we must look forward. What we wish to highlight today is that Chernobyl should stay as a reminder to us all that we have a shared commitment to a better, safer and more prosperous future that leaves no one behind.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): The first tribute we have to pay is to the victims, the public servants who rushed to their aid and the intergovernmental and civil-society humanitarian organizations that demonstrated, in tragic circumstances, that the best response to both the sorrows and hopes of humankind is cooperating, extending a hand in solidarity and assistance and showing a humanitarian conscience above all else. In the end, we humans are tied inexorably together by our shared nature, destiny and defence of human dignity.

The Chernobyl tragedy shook national security and international complacency. It showed that there is no such thing as zero risk for nuclear activity or any other scientific areas, and reminded us once again that mutual trust is the bedrock of international security. It showed that when the security of the whole world is threatened, national interests must be aligned with those of the collective. As a result, under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency it became possible to quickly and willingly negotiate two key agreements on multilateral nuclear security, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

That response confirmed the potential of multilateralism. However, one must ask why it took a tragedy of such proportions to develop entirely rational and predictable mechanisms for preventive international cooperation. The lessons of Chernobyl do not apply to nuclear security alone. The most important of all its lessons must be the capacity to anticipate any situation or occurrence, from pandemics to natural disasters, that could result in humanitarian catastrophe.

The main actors in the Chernobyl tragedy and its recovery have always been the people who were affected. They suffered, and they are the protagonists of its reconstruction. A photographic exhibit of their heroism and sacrifice is on display here, and we thank its organizers for that testimony to memory and hope. The international community also played and continues to play an extremely important role in aiding the victims of Chernobyl in their recovery and in rebuilding their devastated communities. Over and over again, we hear and believe that the best part of the United Nations system is its humanitarian dimension. We owe a great deal to the specialized agencies, programmes, funds and entities of the United Nations. We are also greatly indebted to the dozens of Member States and hundreds of non-governmental organizations and members of civil society that have contributed to this shared task.

What is important, 30 years on, is to have the moral certainty that humankind's progress should not be marked by such tragic circumstances. This disaster requires a multilateral response, and for that it is essential that we reform the United Nations. Much more than speeches, we need the political will to consolidate the effectiveness of our collective response in the face of global threats. The greatest tribute we can pay to the victims of Chernobyl during the Assembly's seventieth session is to adopt a serious, thorough approach, unsullied by mistrust or small-minded calculations, to proposals aimed at strengthening the humanitarian capacity of the United Nations. Our regional group is committed to that goal.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Malta, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. Grima (Malta): I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, and I am pleased to join the President, as well as the representatives of Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation, in this Hall today to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

While many people remember the immediate aftermath of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear-power station well, 30 years later most of them are still unaware of the legacy it has left for the people, especially the children, of the affected region and beyond. The global community, led by the United Nations, has been involved in dealing with the Chernobyl disaster over the years. starting with emergency relief and humanitarian assistance and gradually shifting to capacity-building and sustainable development of the affected regions and communities. In that regard, we welcome the implementation by the United Nations of the Chernobyl Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions, which is expected to be completed at the end of this year.

Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the suffering and needs of those affected, and we commend the donors that continue to fund initiatives addressing the long-term consequences of the accident, with a view to achieving sustainable development for the contaminated areas. In that regard, we welcome the work being done by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to define the vision for post-2016 international cooperation.

Chernobyl has cast a long shadow over the new generations and daily lives of people in the affected area. We should remain committed to continuing to work with all concerned to ensure the success of efforts to restore the site, improve the environmental situation and alleviate the legacy of the social and medical consequences of the Chernobyl accident, as well as to striving to avoid such incidents in the future.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of the host country, the United States of America.

Ms. Mendelson (United States of America): On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States of America, my delegation wishes to join other members and observers here today to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, the horrific loss of life that resulted, the incredible bravery of the first responders and on-site health professionals, and the efforts of so many in the decades since to mitigate the long-term humanitarian and environmental effects of the disaster.

Who among us who was alive then and is of a certain age today does not recall exactly where they were when they heard about the accident? As a graduate student at Columbia University studying that region, along with my fellow students I was filled with emotion and fear, thinking of what was happening on the ground. I was especially concerned because we learned of the accident only days later. That was just at the beginning of *glasnost*, a few years before Ukraine's independence, and long before the technology that connects and defines us in 2016.

Today, we recall the valour of emergency workers who rushed to the scene, the first to respond to the events at Chernobyl in April 1986. As clouds of radioactive smoke billowed into the air, these men and women struggled valiantly to contain the nuclear fallout and to mitigate the humanitarian catastrophe, likely knowing that their efforts would result in their own deaths in the coming hours, days and months. Their heroic sacrifice and the continued existence of a 30-kilometre exclusion zone around Chernobyl together serve as a powerful reminder that the events of Chernobyl must never be forgotten.

In remembrance of their sacrifice, we join with others to reiterate our commitment to and strong support for the multinational effort to secure and return the site of the Chernobyl nuclear accident to an environmentally safe and stable condition. In addition to contributions made by individual countries, international organizations have contributed assistance in the form of evaluations, assessments, recommendations and the coordination of humanitarian and research initiatives. International and United Nations organizations and bodies — such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the World Health Organization, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNESCO, the European Commission, the International Committee of the Red Cross and many others — have also responded.

This thirtieth anniversary is an occasion for us to consider how the international community can further strengthen its coordination, cooperation and communication in responding effectively in the immediate, medium and long terms to complex humanitarian disasters such as that at Chernobyl. The United States remains steadfast in its commitment to overcoming the effects of Chernobyl. Among other measures, we will continue to support critical containment efforts such as the construction of the interim spent-storage facility at the Chernobyl site, consistent with the commitments that have been made by President Obama and other senior United States officials.

Nuclear energy plays a vital role in satisfying and diversifying the world's energy needs. It is also a crucial component of our effort to reduce harmful greenhouse emissions. So as we pause here today to reflect on the events of 26 April 1986 and the commitment of the international community to mitigating the effects of Chernobyl, we should note the renewed commitment of the international community to nuclear safety.

This is an anniversary of solemn remembrance as we recall all the victims of the disaster from Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation — from the emergency workers who gave their lives to those living in the area and affected by the fallout. This is an anniversary of solidarity. The United States is committed to continuing to provide significant contributions in addition to the more than $400 million which the people of the United States have already provided to Ukraine over the years to ensure that the Chernobyl disaster no longer has an impact on future generations.

Finally, this is an anniversary to acknowledge recovery, as the site's 31,000-ton dome is close to completion, will soon be moved into position over the destroyed reactor, and is set to last for the next 100 years. By confining the ageing sarcophagus to protect the surrounding environment and securing the spent fuel, the plant can be decommissioned and the people of Chernobyl can finally begin a new chapter.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mrs. Rodríguez Abascal (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We commemorate today the thirtieth anniversary of the terrible catastrophe of the nuclear-power plant in Chernobyl, which changed the course of thousands of lives, particularly those of children, in the affected areas of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

The nuclear accident was discussed for the first time in the United Nations in 1990; since then, the international community has provided humanitarian assistance to the population suffering its consequences. Chernobyl is therefore a name linked not only to the tragedy, but also to the global response and the realization of international cooperation as a purpose of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1.3 of its Charter.

Cuba was one of the first States to respond to the request for international assistance. In early 1990, Cuban specialists visited Ukraine in order to determine the type of assistance that could be provided. On March 29 of that same year, the first 139 affected children arrived in the island for medical treatment. That moment saw the launch of a massive and free comprehensive health-care programme, aimed at providing the children affected by the Chernobyl accident with medical treatment in Cuba.

As part of this humanitarian programme, which is now 26 years old, over 25,395 affected people from various countries, including more than 21,340 children — mostly from Ukraine — have received medical treatment in Cuba. This assistance programme has also had a scientific impact, as important data concerning internal contamination in children of the affected areas have been collected. This information has been shared in the framework of important scientific events and been used by agencies of the United Nations system, including the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effect of Atomic Radiation.

Cuba does not offer what it has in excess; rather, it shares what it has. The treatment programme for the children affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe is another example of our humanitarian and internationalist policy, demonstrating how international cooperation and solidarity can help us address the challenges facing humankind.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded its special commemorative meeting in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 73?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.93

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

93rd plenary meeting

Wednesday, 27 April 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft .... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 15 and 116 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/70/L.43)

The President: Members will recall that, under agenda items 15 and 116, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", at its 4th plenary meeting, on 25 September 2015.

Members will also recall that the Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda items 15, 116 and 123 at its 52nd plenary meeting, on 13 November 2015. Members will further recall that, under agenda items 15 and 116, the General Assembly adopted decision 70/539 at its 81st plenary meeting, on 22 December 2015.

The importance of the draft resolution before us today (A/70/L.43) cannot be overstated. On a daily basis we receive reports of innocent lives sacrificed in the course of senseless conflicts. For a number of years now, we have been struggling to respond effectively to a global humanitarian and refugee crisis of historic proportions — caused in large part by political instability and protracted conflicts. Improving the United Nations capacity to build peace is therefore not just fundamental to mitigating such crises or to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals; it is part of our moral responsibility to the millions who are being denied the most basic rights and opportunities in life.

Today, the General Assembly will take action on the outcome of the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, contained in draft resolution A/70/L.43. In keeping with established practice from 2005 and 2010, the Security Council will simultaneously adopt a substantially identical draft resolution, thus emphasizing the unique and innovative nature of the peacebuilding architecture of the United Nations.

Allow me, first of all, to recognize and thank the two co-facilitators — Ambassador Gaspar Martins of Angola and Ambassador Bird of Australia — for facilitating this process so ably and efficiently. I also thank the Advisory Group of Experts, under the skilful chairmanship of Mr. Gert Rosenthal, for its report (see A/69/968), as well as the Secretariat for their substantial support provided to the review process. Finally, I want to thank all Member States for their constructive engagement and for securing a substantive outcome that holds great promise for the future work of the Organization in that field.

Through those draft resolutions, we seek to build on the aspirations of the resolutions of 2005, which created what is now called the peacebuilding architecture. Back then, expectations were high that those resolutions could address some of the weaknesses that have undermined United Nations efforts to consolidate peace. In 2010,

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however, it was found that the hopes that accompanied the founding resolutions had yet to be realized. With today's substantial and detailed draft resolutions in the General Assembly and the Security Council, we are taking a decisive step forward.

The draft resolutions reflect important developments in our common understanding of how best to approach peacebuilding and conflict prevention. They seek to reduce fragmentation, including by enhancing the Peacebuilding Commission's role as a bridge between the Assembly and the Council. They further underline the importance of partnerships, not least with regional organizations. And they stress national ownership and inclusiveness as vital, which should include the strengthening of the participation of women and other stakeholders.

Immediately following the adoption of the draft resolution this morning, the General Assembly will debate the annual reports of both the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. That will present an important opportunity to discuss how best to secure predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, a point stressed in the draft resolution and a matter that is of critical importance to the future of the Peacebuilding Fund.

As it is known, the review of the peacebuilding architecture is one of three major reviews taking place this year in the area of peace and security, together with the review of peace operations and the global study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). And, in less than two weeks' time, my second high-level thematic debate will seek to draw out the synergies from across those three processes, as well as other related reviews.

It is my hope that this event will allow Governments and other leading actors in this field to engage in an open and honest discussion on how the United Nations can best play its role in maintaining international peace and security, both today and in future. I am very pleased that many Ministers for Foreign Affairs have already confirmed their attendance at the May event, and I look forward to the full engagement of all Member States.

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/70/L.43, entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/70/L.43, entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

In paragraph 29 of draft resolution A/70/L.43, the General Assembly would decide to convene at its seventy-second session, under the agenda item "Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace", a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations work on sustaining peace, on a date and in a format to be decided by the President of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 29, in the absence of the modalities for the meeting, it is not possible at the present time to estimate the potential cost implications of the requirements for meetings and documentation. When the decision on the modalities, format and organization of the meeting has been taken, the Secretary-General will submit the budgetary implications of such requirements, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Accordingly, the adoption of draft resolution A/70/L.43 would not give rise to any budgetary implications under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.43?

Draft resolution A/70/L.43 was adopted (resolution 70/262).

The President: I call on the representative of Thailand, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted. I remind him that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Pawutiyapong (Thailand): The Kingdom of Thailand welcomes today's adoption of resolution 70/262, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, as well as the adoption of the identical Security Council resolution 2282 (2016). Thailand has long advocated a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding that encompasses peace and security, sustainable development and human rights components.

We therefore believe that it is both symbolic and of practical significance that the General Assembly and the Security Council act together with a unified voice on this important matter.

Resolution 70/262 is a well-balanced text that reflects the key themes and recommendations of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968). It offers a broad definition of the concept of "sustaining peace", which is both a goal and a process, a shared task and responsibility, as well as involving coordinated and sustained engagement in all stages of conflict.

We are particularly pleased that the resolution highlights the interconnectedness between sustaining peace and sustainable and inclusive development, and the inclusive and meaningful participation of women and youth. Equally important, the resolution recognizes the need for predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding activities, which is crucial for the implementation.

I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation to the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia, as well as their able teams, for their tireless efforts over the three-month-long process of bridging differing views and positions, which has now enabled Members to forge a consensus. Finally, with the resolution providing a framework and guidance for the whole United Nations system and Member States on the future of the United Nations peacebuilding efforts, let us commit ourselves to prompt and effective implementation of its provisions.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 15 and agenda item 116.

Agenda items 31 and 110

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/70/714)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/70/715)

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden in his capacity as former Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I am very pleased to be here today on behalf of the members of the Peacebuilding Commission in order to present the annual report of the Commission on its ninth session (A/70/714).

Let me first congratulate the facilitators, Ambassador Gaspar Martins and Ambassador Bird, as well as all members of the General Assembly, on the adoption of resolution 70/262, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. That has been a truly remarkable achievement, and one which will — if implemented — not only help enhance the work of the Commission, but also strengthen our collective ability to sustain peace, as said earlier by the President of the Assembly.

I will now turn to the task at hand, namely, to present the activities and outline the achievements of the Peacebuilding Commission over the past year. I wish to pay tribute to my fellow Commission Chairs, as well as the representatives of the countries on the Commission's agenda and all the members of the Commission, for their contribution to what was a productive and active year.

The ninth session of the Peacebuilding Commission coincided with the first phase of the review of the peacebuilding architecture, which inspired the work of the Commission. Over the past year, we have taken important steps to improve the effectiveness and flexibility of the Commission, thereby striving to further enhance the relevance of our work, broaden the scope of our reach and improve the accountability of the Commission. That includes adopting more transparent and strategic working methods and a more flexible agenda, and increasing inclusivity, including improving partnerships with regional and subregional organizations.

Let me highlight three particular areas of progress from the annual report and also convey some reflections on how this work can be built on and pursued in light of the review and the resolution just adopted.

First, with regard to the flexibility and effectiveness of the work of the Commission, it was able during its ninth session to leverage its inherent flexibility so as to convene regional and country-specific discussions concerning situations beyond the Commission's established agenda. The Organizational Committee has had opportunities to discuss peacebuilding needs and lessons learned in several contexts, such as the peace process in Papua New Guinea, the elections in Burkina Faso and financing for peacebuilding in Somalia.

Going forward, that work can, and should be, further leveraged. In my view, there is great scope for the Commission to keep evolving, and the recently adopted resolution gives the Commission a clear mandate to diversify its working methods in support of sustaining peace beyond specific country configurations.

Secondly, on regional issues, the Commission has, over the past year, moved to highlight thematic and regional issues of relevance to its work. For example, it has drawn attention to the peacebuilding needs within the framework of the Ebola recovery, building on the successful work of my predecessor, Ambassador de Aguiar Patriota of Brazil. A Peacebuilding Commission Chair's trip to West Africa was undertaken, and I participated in the World Bank Spring Meeting and the high-level International Ebola Recovery Conference here in New York, with a view to drawing the attention of the international community and the international financing institutions to the peacebuilding aspects of the Ebola situation in West Africa. Furthermore, a regional discussion on trends in and threats to peacebuilding was convened at the beginning of this year with the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, in order to identify conflict-prevention priorities in the West Africa region.

It is encouraging that the Commission is already building on what was started during previous sessions in the form of additional regional discussions, which were convened already this month. The Commission can use the momentum from the reviews further in order to deepen and institutionalize cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, both in the Commission as a whole and in country-specific work. The fundamental peacebuilding and conflict-prevention work carried out in particular by the regional economic communities is something that the Commission can better link with as part of its advocacy work and accompaniment. In a similar vein, the Commission is well placed to listen to and incorporate local perspectives and bring such understandings and approaches to peacebuilding to the fore.

Thirdly, regarding inclusivity, few bodies at the United Nations have such a mandate to interact with and draw upon the expertise of such a wide range of actors as does the Commission. During the ninth session, the Commission worked to advance interaction with a more diverse group of actors. The drafting of a gender strategy for the Peacebuilding Commission was initiated, which will help the Commission to systematize the way it works on gender issues and to put the empowerment of women at the core of its mission. A special session was organized to discuss how to advance the youth, peace and security agenda, and to champion youth participation in sustainable peace. That is another agenda that I hope the Commission can continue to champion, building on the momentum of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).

Beyond the three topics that I have had a chance to touch upon, there are, of course, many more achievements that deserve the attention of this body, not least within the country-specific configurations of the Commission, as the annual report makes clear. It is also important to note that many of the areas that I have highlighted are clearly captured in the forward agenda of the annual report, which charts the work for the tenth session. I am confident that the Commission will continue to evolve under the able stewardship and chairmanship of the Ambassador of Kenya, Mr. Macharia Kamau.

Before concluding, I would like to dedicate a special word of thanks to Assistant Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco of the Peacebuilding Support Office, and all of his staff, for their very steadfast support throughout the ninth session and their never-ending determination to advance the peacebuilding agenda of the United Nations.

I would now like to take this opportunity to very briefly make a few additional remarks in my national capacity on the occasion of the adoption of resolution 70/262, on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. We align ourselves, of course, with the statement to be delivered shortly on behalf of the European Union.

It is not often that the General Assembly turns bold reports into equally bold resolutions. In the case of resolution 70/262, it has done just that. The co-facilitators of the resolution promised to take an ambitious approach that took into account all elements of the report (A/69/968), and they have delivered. The text that we just adopted is the most comprehensive resolution to date on peacebuilding in the United Nations. Similarly, it is one of the most comprehensive resolutions to date on conflict prevention, since it not only advances the normative agenda, but also propels a road map for the United Nations system.

Resolution 70/262 redefines how we think about and act on peacebuilding. By agreeing on a new definition of "sustaining peace", we are moving away from post-conflict peacebuilding and putting conflict prevention at the core of our action. It also means that we agree on the importance of inclusivity and the need to take into account the views of all segments of society in such endeavours. We acknowledge the need for concrete integration in practice between security and development, the need to break down silos within the system, and we underline the inherently political nature of sustaining peace. We now have an agenda that goes beyond the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. It is an agenda for the whole United Nations system and its Member States. It is now up to us to act on it.

For Sweden, three priority areas in the review have been: financing, partnerships and prevention, and we are committed to take a leading role also in the follow-up and operationalizing of the review outcome in those areas. As donors, I believe we need to examine how to ensure better funding of peacebuilding activities, in particular in the United Nations system. By decreasing fragmentation, encouraging a joint and collective approach to conflict prevention, we can enable a more effective tackling of the root causes of conflict. More predictable and sustained financing is required. I am glad to announce that Sweden will co-host a high-level pledging conference for the Peacebuilding Fund in the margins of the ministerial week in September here in New York in order to take forward that commitment for sustained financing of the resolution that we have just adopted.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kenya in his capacity as Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. Kamau (Kenya), Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission: First of all, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this very important debate and for the manner with which he has been conducting the affairs of the General Assembly.

Today, Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262 were adopted in the area of peacebuilding. I would like to recognize the Ambassador of Angola and the Ambassador of Australia for their strong work and the leadership that they provided in getting us to where we needed to be in order to adopt those resolutions. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the previous speaker, Ambassador Skoog, for his chairmanship of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2015. His vision and commitment were instrumental in bringing the Commission to discuss new country situations and to work in a much more flexible manner that is consistent with all our ambitions for peace in the world.

Today, I speak at a critical moment in the United Nations peace and security review process, given the resolutions that have just been adopted. We have before us an opportunity not only to start thinking about peacebuilding differently, but also to implement peace differently. I will touch on some of the issues that the previous speaker, Ambassador Skoog, highlighted. One of my priorities, as contained in my letter of intent, as Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission this year, is to build on the successes of my predecessor. That includes the forward agenda contained in the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session (A/70/714) and the report of the Working Group on Lessons Learned.

Ten years ago, the Security Council and the General Assembly created the Peacebuilding Commission as a unique intergovernmental advisory body for advocacy in order to sustain political attention and mobilize resources, and as a platform to bring together various actors in peacebuilding efforts. Today, we have in front of us the product of many bilateral, multilateral and plenary negotiations. However, we are faced with a particular question: what are the implications of those resolutions for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission going forward? And what will be the impact that the Peacebuilding Commission and its configurations have in country situations?

Throughout the negotiations on the milestone resolutions that the General Assembly and Security Council have just adopted, it was clear that Member States wanted to have a better-functioning and more effective Peacebuilding Commission. I believe that the outcome of that process gives us the opportunity to fully utilize the Commission as a unique advisory body. It will allow the Commission to effectively play its role in sustaining peace; to remain relevant and consistent with the underlying principles that motivated its creation; and to formulate specific, strategic, targeted and practical advice in our advisory function and our interactions with the General Assembly and the Security Council. I would like to highlight some of the objectives of the new peacebuilding architecture.

First and foremost, a change in mindset is needed in order to reflect today's realities and expectations.

Secondly, "sustaining peace" should be understood in the broadest possible terms and should be integrated at all stages, including when addressing the root causes of conflict, escalation and the continuation or recurrence of conflict, and in the prevention of outbreaks. Thirdly, with regard to the primacy of politics, peacebuilding is an inherently political process, and political leadership is central in sustaining nationally led development programmes and responding to the root causes of conflict. We must always strive to avoid resorting to force or military intervention. Fourthly, as was stated by Ambassador Skoog, inclusiveness and the equal participation of all, particularly women and youth, in peacebuilding efforts cannot be overemphasized.

I will continue to work with the Peacebuilding Commission's Organizational Committee and Member States within and outside the Commission's current engagement in order to immediately begin to implement the recommendations contained in the resolutions we have adopted. The Commission will need to address several key areas.

First, the Commission must evolve a more flexible convening platform, available to all countries that seek support with regard to achieving sustainable peace. Secondly, the Commission must strengthen its engagement with the principal organs, particularly the Security Council — but also the General Assembly — in order to promote coherence across the range of work of the United Nations. Thirdly, the Commission should build stronger links with key partners, such as the international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, the European Union, as well as civil society. Fourthly, the Commission should explore ways to improve its communication and visibility within and outside the United Nations system.

In order to achieve those goals, the Commission will review and diversify its working methods and rules of procedure, as stated in resolution 70/262. I have personally identified priority areas that I intend to take forward under my chairmanship. Of course, it is also my hope that we will continue to receive ongoing support and guidance from the Peacebuilding Support Office under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary-General, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco.

Again, as was stated by the previous speaker, in considering regional and cross-cutting issues related to sustaining peace, on 6 April the Commission convened an informal meeting on the subregional dimensions of peacebuilding in West Africa. That was in follow-up to a related meeting held on 18 January under the chairpersonship of Ambassador Skoog. Similarly, in order to encourage regular exchanges of views and joint initiatives with the relevant regional and subregional organizations, there are now ongoing arrangements to visit Central Africa, East Africa and the Horn of Africa during the course of this year as well. Those joint efforts and regular exchanges need to go beyond the countries of the current Commission configurations.

Moreover, the forward agenda of the annual report of the Commission highlighted important priorities for the work of the Commission during the course of this year. Among them are a follow-up to the Ebola outbreak. I intend to visit the three countries affected — Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea — so as to assess the impact of the outbreak on peacebuilding.

The second priority is the finalization of the implementation of a gender perspective in the Commission's country-specific engagement and the efforts to continue highlighting the role of youth in peaceful societies.

The third priority is the preparation for the 2016 annual session, which will address a very important issue entitled "Transitions as a challenge to consolidating peace and security: The role of the Peacebuilding Commission in diplomacy and political accompaniment". The annual session will present an important opportunity for the Commission to discuss, with key partners, a number of policy issues aimed at assisting countries undergoing transition. We hope to hear from a number of countries that have gone through that experience.

Finally, the resolution we have just adopted is categorical on the need to operationalize the links between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the work of the Commission. The resolution also encourages the Commission to enhance synergies between the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Commission. It is important to ensure predictable and sustainable funding at all the stages of the peacebuilding effort. The Peacebuilding Fund has proved to be a unique instrument in addressing key peacebuilding priorities. I would like to urge all Member States to contribute — and those who are not currently contributing to join in contributing — to the Fund. It is with that in mind that Kenya has decided to co-host, with Sweden and others, as well as any other delegation that wishes to join us, a Peacebuilding Fund pledging conference on the margins of the opening of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

I urge those here, for the sake of fostering greater peace in our world, to embrace the outcome of the resolutions and reviews adopted and endorsed today by the Assembly and the Council, so as to show greater ambition, flexibility, creativity and innovation in seeking peaceful solutions to the challenges that we face in securing peace in our world.

The President: I give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Vrailas (European Union): I speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

I thank you, Sir, for having convened today's important meeting to adopt resolution 70/262, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in conjunction with the debate revolving around the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session (A/70/714) and the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/70/715). This represents an excellent occasion to take stock of the achievements made over the past 12 months.

The EU welcomes the identical resolutions adopted today on the review of the peacebuilding architecture here in the General Assembly and in the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)). They are the most comprehensive resolutions on peacebuilding that the United Nations has adopted so far, and their adoption marks the end of an intense review process that started with the work of the Advisory Group of Experts. In that regard we would like to thank the co-facilitators, Ambassador Bird of Australia and Ambassador Gaspar Martins of Angola, and their respective teams for their skilful steering and conclusion of the negotiations.

We would also like to pay tribute to the work of the Advisory Group of Experts and its Chair, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, and once again express our appreciation for the comprehensiveness of the report that it has produced (see A/69/968). The EU fully subscribed to the report's conclusion that a change in mindset is needed. Peacebuilding should no longer be seen as a post-conflict activity, because the challenge of sustaining peace runs across the complete cycle of our engagement. Today, we are faced with a rising number of violent conflicts in the world. The failure to sustain peace is part of the reason that we are faced with this challenge. In fact, 90 per cent of conflict onsets in the first decade of the twenty-first century took place in contexts that had experienced conflict before. Given that recurrent nature of violent conflict, sustaining peace equals conflict prevention in many cases.

The need for a change in mindset has guided the EU's actions during the negotiations in the intergovernmental phase of the review, and we are pleased to see that the concept of "sustaining peace" is now clearly defined and that the resolution acknowledges that it involves all stages of the cycle of conflict and should flow through all three pillars of United Nations engagement.

Too often it is thought that the peace process has ended when a peace agreement has been reached or elections are held marking the end of a formally agreed transition phase. In fact, continued support for the dialogue and mediation processes remains very important, as the failure to support dialogue on and provide political accompaniment to the implementation of peace agreements are part of the reasons for the worrisome trend of recurrent conflict.

We welcome the high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly focused on the United Nations, peace and security, which the President of the General Assembly is holding in May to address key challenges to international peace and security and to examine how to strengthen the role, coherence and performance of the United Nations architecture in the field of peace and security, including peacebuilding. We also welcome the invitation to the Economic and Social Council to pursue its cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission, which should take into account the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

A key requirement for effective peacebuilding in practically any context is to address the nexus between security and development. A basic premise is that peacebuilding should be done at the country level and always adjusted to the specific country context. To be truly effective in its responses to assist fragile States, the United Nations system needs to work in a more integrated, flexible and coordinated fashion — at both the country and the Headquarters level — and give more weight to prevention and early-warning tools. The resolution clearly acknowledges that issue and stresses the importance of joint analyses and effective strategic planning across the United Nations system in its long-term engagement in conflict-affected countries.

We also welcome the recognition that peacebuilding is an inherently political process that should be carried out on the basis of a long-term vision and a holistic approach. It should address the structural causes of conflict, as well as contemporary risks of recurrence; provide for inclusive and participatory political processes; build strong and effective institutions, capable of addressing the root causes of conflict; and be responsive to people's needs. It should promote inclusive national ownership, including Government, opposition and civil society, and a bottom-up approach. We are pleased to note the recognition of the importance of women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention and resolution.

The EU also welcomes the clear restatement of the tasks of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the encouragement to review and diversify its working methods in order to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of sustaining peace. Close strategic and operational partnerships between the United Nations and international, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions are also required in order to address the challenge of sustaining peace. That is clearly stressed in the resolution, and we welcome the call on the Peacebuilding Commission and the Secretary-General to work to increase synergies and, in particular, to explore options to strengthen collaboration between the United Nations and the World Bank in conflict-affected countries.

For its part, the EU is keen to continue its work in increasing partnership with the United Nations, including on the ground. The EU and the United Nations have built a strong and continuously evolving partnership on crisis management. The EU is increasingly collaborating with the United Nations on conflict analysis. Such initiatives not only support a shared understanding of structural and contemporary conflict drivers, they also encourage dialogue and foster partnership among those working on the ground. The EU, the United Nations and the World Bank are also reinvigorating their partnership on post-conflict needs assessment, aiming to improve their focus on analysing and identifying what is needed for peacebuilding — and hence renaming those assessments as recovery and peacebuilding assessments.

Turning now to the two annual reports before us today, both are comprehensive documents illustrating the complexity of peacebuilding challenges.

We appreciate the efforts by the Organizational Committee and the Peacebuilding Support Office to provide an assessment of the Commission's work in pursuing its forward agenda for 2015. The EU welcomes the wider focus of the Commission, which goes beyond the countries on its agenda; we see, for example, the engagement of the Organizational Committee with Somalia, Burkina Faso and Papua New Guinea. We also welcome its work with regard to Ebola recovery efforts. We applaud the successful organization of the Annual Session of the Peacebuilding Commission around the theme of sustainable financing for peacebuilding.

The EU has also been a full member of all country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission since their inception and is trying to provide the best support possible for their success. There is a clear role for the Commission when it engages with countries undergoing transition. It needs to be able to respond better to challenges identified by Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, resident coordinators and other actors. In so doing, it can significantly contribute to the One United Nations initiative.

Turning to the performance of the country-specific configurations over the past year, there is some good progress to report, while many challenges remain to be tackled. That is particularly the case for Burundi, where the dynamics have, unfortunately, taken a negative turn and illustrate the need for additional preventive measures, political attention and engagement to prevent a recurrence of violent conflict.

We commend the efforts of all configuration Chairs. In our view, the Commission still has a role to play in all those countries, perhaps through more flexible forms of engagement. Other country or regional situations could also be addressed through such flexible "group of friends"-type formats with a clear link to the field.

The EU is engaged in peacebuilding activities in many countries through our broad and long-term engagement in political dialogue, development, economic cooperation, trade and other instruments. That is why the EU has fully participated in the Commission's work since its establishment.

The Peacebuilding Fund has achieved significant results, but the Fund is a small-scale strategic fund that has to be followed by longer-term commitments from other financing sources, which may be bilateral or multilateral, including multilateral and regional development banks. For its part, the EU has already engaged in joint funding for peacebuilding projects via our Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, and stands ready to explore further opportunities for joint funding. With regard to securing more predictable financing for peacebuilding, the EU believes that it is important to address the silo approach of the donor community. We stand ready to discuss options on financing at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly on the basis of proposals to be made by the Secretary-General.

Before concluding my statement, I would like to extend my gratitude to the former Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Olof Skoog of Sweden, whom I would like to thank for his leadership, commitment and the excellent work he has done. We also look forward to working hand in hand with the new Chairperson, Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya, the Commission membership and the Peacebuilding Support Office so as to move things forward.

Ms. Bird (Australia): Let me start by thanking Ambassadors Olof Skoog and Macharia Kamau for their statements and by acknowledging the important work undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in 2015.

The work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Fund is fundamental to our efforts to build sustainable peace across the globe. Innovations undertaken in 2015 by the Commission, including the adoption of more flexible and strategic working methods, a focus on inclusivity, and strengthened partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, are to be commended.

We encourage the Commission to continue to engage flexibly with countries — particularly those supported through the Fund. In that regard, we acknowledge the Commission's constructive engagement with Papua New Guinea in 2015, and note the positive work being done this year with respect to Sri Lanka.

Australia also welcomes the priority given by the Commission in 2015 to gender issues and the financing of peacebuilding. Its work to highlight peacebuilding as part of the Ebola recovery response was a key achievement and testament to its value as a forum for considering cross-cutting issues.

We also acknowledge the important work undertaken through the Peacebuilding Fund during 2015. As a flexible, catalytic, rapid-response pooled fund, the Peacebuilding Fund has demonstrated its value in promoting coherence in crisis response, and in that regard, we also acknowledge the importance of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

At the Peacebuilding Fund meeting attention was drawn to the first-time allocation of 15 per cent of funds to gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives. We call for that milestone to be built on, including through the mainstreaming of gender throughout United Nations peacebuilding efforts, and initiatives such as the Global Acceleration Instrument on women's engagement in peace and security and humanitarian affairs.

Finally, Australia would like to recognize the important work of the Fund across the African region, as well as in Asia and the Pacific. Initiatives to support understanding and implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in Papua New Guinea are particularly welcome, and we look forward to the Fund providing further support in the Pacific region.

Australia welcomes the parallel adoption today of the comprehensive General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on United Nations peacebuilding. As co-facilitator, with the Permanent Representative of Angola, of the intergovernmental phase of the review of the peacebuilding architecture, we thank Member States for the constructive spirit in which consultations were held, which we believe reflects the high level of support for the United Nations embarking on a new approach to sustaining peace. We would also like to thank the Advisory Group of Experts — ably led by Ambassador Gert Rosenthal — for its comprehensive report (see A/69/968), upon which the resolutions were based.

Time and again the world has borne witness to the difficulties of achieving lasting peace. Even when violence ceases, relapses into conflict have been all too common. The need for a new international approach to sustaining peace is clear, and with the adoption of today's resolutions, the United Nations system has committed to putting that objective, i.e., sustaining peace, and conflict prevention in particular, at the centre of its peace and security efforts.

Through the resolutions just adopted we are collectively affirming our common view that sustaining peace is a shared responsibility of the whole United Nations system and that it is fundamental to all of the United Nations peace and security, development, and human rights engagements. We are acknowledging that inclusive, nationally led responses that engage all segments of the population — including women, youth and civil society — are essential. We are stressing the importance of the United Nations enhancing its operational and strategic partnerships, including with regional and subregional organizations, and international financial institutions. We are calling for strengthened joint analysis and strategic planning across the United Nations system, which are critical, including through the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review. We are emphasizing the need for greater coherence among the Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. And we are clarifying the potential of the Peacebuilding Commission to support sustainable peace — particularly in bringing sustained international attention to conflict-affected States, and in playing a bridging role so as to bring greater coordination and coherence between the various organs of the United Nations. The Commission's review of its working methods and rules of procedure, with a view to better supporting peacebuilding priorities, including conflict prevention and gender-sensitive peacebuilding, will be vital.

The potentially transformative impact of today's resolutions is clear and consistent with many of the critical recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, and the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security. However, we must also acknowledge the importance of the sustained and predictable funding of United Nations peacebuilding for achieving that potential. Without continuity of funding, all of today's normative developments will be meaningless. To that end, Australia looks forward to receiving a range of comprehensive and innovative options aimed at stabilizing United Nations peacebuilding financing at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, as part of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolutions adopted.

As we mark today the adoption of the peacebuilding resolutions, the hard work begins now, of course. It is imperative that the United Nations system, with the support of the international community, look to implement those resolutions fully. Australia is committed to supporting that work and to continuing our close cooperation with others in such efforts.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): Today, the General Assembly has adopted resolution 70/262 on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. A similar resolution was just adopted unanimously by the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)) this morning.

It was a great honour for my country, Angola, and for myself to act, jointly with Ambassador Gillian Elizabeth Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia, as co-facilitator of the intergovernmental phase of the peacebuilding architecture review process. I would like to take this occasion to thank and praise Ambassador Bird for the excellent cooperation extended to me and to my delegation. I would also like to thank the Advisory Group of Experts, coordinated by Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, for drafting the Group's comprehensive report on United Nations peacebuilding (see A/69/968), which set the basis for the resolution that we have just adopted.

A word of appreciation is also due to the Peacebuilding Commission troika, namely, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, Ambassador Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden, and Ambassador Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea. Their support throughout the whole process was an invaluable and significant contribution that enabled us to overcome all hurdles in negotiating the resolution just adopted. I thank them all wholeheartedly. Last but not least, we acknowledge and commend the work of the experts of the Member States and the secretariat of the review, especially the Peacebuilding Support Office, whose commitment was pivotal in allowing for today's conclusion.

The extensive support for the resolution that we have just adopted reflects the transparency and inclusivity to which the co-facilitators were committed, including in consultations with the regional groups and throughout the negotiating process.

The assessment conducted by the Advisory Group of Experts concluded that, in its 10 years of existence, the peacebuilding architecture has not been sufficiently able to fulfil its potential and overcome all the challenges it faced. The Advisory Group also concluded that in order to improve that performance and increase effectiveness, a new approach was needed. The Group's assessment pointed out the challenges facing the peacebuilding architecture, the reforms needed in the Secretariat's methods of work and in its interaction with Member States. The Advisory Group further recalled how peace and security, development and human rights were approached by the United Nations system as separate silos, instead of through an approach combining those three pillars, which represent the foundation of international peace and security.

The approach set out by today's resolution changes the dynamics of peacebuilding by putting the focus on the three phases of the conflict cycle: preventing the outbreak of conflict; taking measures to avoid the escalation, prolongation and recurrence of conflict; and encouraging Member States and the United Nations to develop synergies in order to sustain peace. In fact, the resolution that we have just adopted introduces the concept of "sustaining peace" as the translation of the General Assembly's determination to address the root causes of conflicts; assist the parties to a conflict to end hostilities; ensure national reconciliation; and, importantly, promote, at the national level, the three pillars of the United Nations, supporting Member States' efforts to build peaceful societies through inclusive development.

The resolution further recognizes the primary role of national authorities in preventing conflict, the invaluable support that the United Nations can provide and the primary responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. It also considers the importance of strategic and operational partnerships with international and regional organizations, and takes into account the important role of all segments of society, in particular civil society, women and youth.

The role of the Peacebuilding Commission is also reaffirmed, and Member States are called upon to work to improve the Commission's effectiveness, efficiency and flexibility, ensure its revitalization and coordination with the other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system. The resolution also provides guidance on the persistent challenge posed by insufficient financial contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, inviting the Secretary-General to provide options for consideration by Member States, aimed at ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained funding for peacebuilding activities, including through voluntary and assessed contributions.

We believe that in adopting resolution 70/262, the General Assembly and the Security Council are building the foundations of a new commitment to and mindset on ways to address conflict prevention and resolution, a commitment that must be supported at the national level and by every individual, and taking into account the fact that we are all accountable to future generations for building peaceful societies and sustainable and sustaining peace.

Mr. De Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): With today's adoption of resolution 70/262, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, we have a renewed opportunity to engage Member States, the United Nations and other stakeholders collectively in a global effort to build lasting peace. We concur with the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia, whom I wish to congratulate on their valuable work in facilitating this intergovernmental process, that the agreement we have arrived at today reflects the level of ambition and scope of the recommendations of the 2015 report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968).

It is fair to say that today's resolution lives up to the challenges we are facing, 10 years after the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission. The findings of the Advisory Group of Experts, under the able chairship of Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, have paved the way for innovative ideas and measures to strengthen peacebuilding initiatives, such as the concept of sustaining peace; national ownership with inclusivity; an emphasis on prevention and the need to address the root causes of conflict; partnerships with regional and subregional organizations; sustained financing; and early engagement with conflict-affected countries. The concept of sustaining peace, which encompasses the dimension of conflict prevention, marks an evolution from the original paradigm of peacebuilding, which focused on addressing the needs of countries emerging from conflict, as reflected in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit (resolution 60/1), resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolutions 1645 (2005) and 1646 (2005).

Brazil has long emphasized that the assumption that poverty leads to conflict is incorrect. We should not forget that, historically, the most violent and destructive conflicts have been caused by well-developed societies. At the same time, we have underscored that the engagement of the United Nations with conflict-affected countries should go beyond providing aid relief and addressing immediate needs but should rather include activities that aim at promoting sustainable development, poverty eradication, access to justice, gender equality and respect for human rights, which are precisely what the peacebuilding architecture provides a framework for achieving, with the active engagement of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. Nor should we forget that national authorities also share the responsibility for drafting policies and identifying priorities and activities for sustaining peace, and that inclusivity is fundamental when forging a common vision of society. In that regard, Brazil especially welcomes the recognition of the role that women and young people can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

The General Assembly will also consider, under agenda item 110, the report of the Secretary-General (A/70/715) on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). As we learned from the report, the PBF is faced with a shortage of resources for the current year. It is true that the Fund's flexibility enables rapid responses to critical scenarios when most donors withdraw their support, but the lack of predictable financing is a fundamental challenge to long-term peacebuilding efforts. In that regard, Brazil welcomes the fact that the Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on options to increase, restructure and better prioritize funding allocated to peacebuilding activities, including through assessed contributions. Brazil also values the emphasis placed on the need for sustained financing for peacebuilding activities, including by cooperating with multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank and regional institutions.

I would like to add a few words about the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), whose activities will also be considered in this meeting. As a former Chair of the PBC, I am encouraged to note that the review process has strengthened its bridging role among the principal bodies of the United Nations system and has acknowledged its convening power among various stakeholders from within and outside the Organization. Brazil also looks forward to implementation of the provision that calls for including a gender perspective in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Despite the progress made today, I wish to highlight the fact that for the Peacebuilding Commission to realize its full potential more efficiently, its entire membership should actively engage in its work. At the moment, some Member States do not show the same level of engagement with it by comparison to their commitment to other bodies. It is extremely important that the members of the Security Council, in particular, take full ownership of the Commission and contribute to improving the engagement of the United Nations membership in general in promoting sustaining peace. It is our understanding that by acknowledging the importance of strong coordination and cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, the General Assembly is empowering the PBC in its advisory capacity to the Security Council. We expect the Council to take full advantage of the provision in paragraph 7 of the resolution we have just adopted by consensus.

Ms. Sughayar (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to express Jordan's appreciation to the delegations of Australia and Angola for their outstanding role and hard work during the consultations for the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. I salute the efforts of all the Member States that have participated so effectively and assiduously in the negotiations over the past three months, particularly Bangladesh, in its efforts as coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The review of the peacebuilding architecture has come at a very important moment, a time when conflicts and their political, economic and humanitarian consequences are escalating, and enables us to focus on two fundamental objectives — preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. Resolution 70/262, which we adopted this morning, is a vital step and will be a cornerstone of the peacebuilding architecture for the coming years. It reflects Member States' desire to achieve those two objectives as a priority in strengthening the peacebuilding system. That will require States to demonstrate greater responsibility and national ownership in order to maintain and sustain peace and build confidence among communities. The costs of conflicts, their recurrence in some States and regions and the serious humanitarian and financial losses that result can no longer be tolerated. We must investigate the root causes of conflicts if we are to find the right solutions to them. Our success in achieving sustaining peace will depend on our joint commitment to taking concrete steps on the ground in order to strengthen the links between the three pillars of stability — human rights, development and security.

The review and today's resolution represent a road map for implementing our need to sustain peace, as well as for dealing with current challenges. Jordan would like to stress some of the requirements for this, the most important being, first, the ability to learn from past lessons, to bridge the gaps that have affected and undermined the efforts of the United Nations and its involvement and response in countries in conflict. The second is promoting consultations and positive synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission, Member States and regional organizations, and the third is improving ways of sustaining peace in order to give the impetus necessary for dealing with the challenges of today, which do not disappear with the end of conflict or violence.

We believe that women and young people are important segments of society and important partners in building peace. We therefore have a responsibility to emphasize and focus on ensuring that young people and women can play a positive role. Young people are in a majority in States affected by conflict, and Jordan has therefore focused on ensuring that today's resolution on the peacebuilding architecture refers to Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), on youth, peace and security, including the paragraph that underscores the role of young people's effective, viable participation in sustaining peace, especially as the numbers of conflicts increase.

Since the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture has focused on collective views in the United Nations and among Member States, Jordan would like to reaffirm its willingness to cooperate with its regional and international partners in implementing the resolution. I would like to emphasize that our ability to confront new challenges and ensure that they do not develop into armed conflicts can be maintained only through sustained, collective efforts and the provision of the resources needed to help countries in conflict.

Mr. Minah (Sierra Leone): It gives me great pleasure to speak on behalf of the African caucus within the Peacebuilding Commission. For us, as the 100th Member of the United Nations, on this day of the fifty-fifth anniversary of our independence, it seems fitting that this meeting is being held here today. We as a country have been a prime beneficiary of the peacebuilding efforts of the Organization. Africa as a continent has been a crucible for many of the peacebuilding experiments and events over the past decade or so.

We welcome the twin adoptions today of resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), and we thank all who have played a part in helping us to arrive where we are today. We are also grateful for the efforts of the co-facilitators, our colleagues the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia. We welcome Ambassador Rosenthal and his Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture for their sterling work in bringing us to this point. We would also like to pay tribute to the President of the General Assembly for his guidance. As we look forward to the forthcoming Kenyan chairmanship of the Peacebuilding Commission, we thank Sweden and our colleague Ambassador Olof Skoog for their leadership. And we would like to recognize all who have sought peace, built peace or who have fallen in the service of peace. Today represents a further step in the evolution of peacebuilding. We must embrace the challenge of sustaining peace.

The unique convening power of the Peacebuilding Commission was evident during the Ebola epidemic that struck West Africa. Yet during that crisis we saw the evolution and perhaps the growth of the interlocking nature of regional and subregional organizations and of the continental organization, the African Union. All came to realize that while Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea formed the epicentre of the Ebola crisis, the cause and the fight belonged to all of us. Today's resolution represents a balance between ambition, pragmatism and aspirations. It does not give everything we desire, but it speaks to many of the concerns and aims that we hope a renewed peacebuilding architecture will achieve. We all now recognize how important it is to ensure that the Commission speaks to fragile States rather than at them. We all recognize the need for predictable and sustainable financing for the Peacebuilding Fund. We all recognize the Commission's value as an advisory link between the various institutions within the house and various organizations outside it. We all recognize that the issue of peacebuilding is indeed one for all of us.

On this day of Sierra Leone's independence, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, has said that our country has been rightly lauded for how far it has come and for its resilience in emerging from conflict into a position of relative safety. But like our colleagues, our sister countries within the Mano River Union and Africa in general, we are in a state of fragility. Peacebuilding does not encompass only the ending of conflict; it also involves preventing conflict and being mindful of the causes that may lead to it. In the quest to sustain peace, there are tasks for the national, regional and continental actors. On the national front, it is the job of those governing to make sure that they build a truly inclusive society that leaves no one out. It is for the national actors to make sure that they address the needs of all their citizens, not just the privileged few. Regional and subregional actors can play an early-warning role that may advise and inform the acts of the continental organization, the African Union.

As the United Nations, it is of course in our interest to maintain and sustain peace. The Security Council, as we know, is primarily engaged with the maintenance of international peace and security, but the Assembly also has a role to play, and through the Peacebuilding Commission we believe we can make our voice more effective. We welcome all who have played a key role in the negotiations leading to today's resolutions, and we are glad that the questions of synergies and coordination are clearly covered in them.

In the wake of Ebola, we are also aware that the gains of peacebuilding can be eroded if we take our eyes off the ball. Today Sierra Leone is a country of relative safety and much praised for its religious tolerance. But as I have said, the road from fragility to stability requires not only resilience on the part of the citizens of a State but also the economic and peacebuilding resilience that we must all help to create.

Today the Commission is rightly commended for its work. Its past three Chairs have ensured that its prominence is unquestioned. As I said earlier, today's resolution is a balance and, as with all resolutions, a compromise. But the fact remains that as with everything we do in this building, implementation and continued commitment to the cause remain paramount.There are concentric circles of responsibilities — national, subregional, regional and continental, but above all global. We are in a world of pandemics, epidemics, terrorism and migration. We are in a world of uncertainty. Never before has the cause of peace seemed so much under siege. Today we have taken a small step to help that cause, and in Africa we will play our role. The African Union will combine its efforts with those of all in this Organization to ensure that the Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and all the constituent parts of the architecture are not only enhanced but empowered.

In closing, I would like to commend all our peacekeepers in the field and all who work here at Headquarters to ensure that what we do and say here always manages to have an effect on the least advantaged of our citizens.

Mr. Wilson (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union, and I would like to add just a couple of brief remarks.

I would first like to express our gratitude for today's meeting, and in particular to thank the co-facilitators for their tireless work, which has resulted in the strong, balanced resolution 70/262, which we have all endorsed. As the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968) has highlighted, however, there has been underperformance in some areas, so I am very pleased that today's resolution grasps those issues.

I would like to particularly highlight four points. The first is the importance of sustaining peace as a concept, which recognizes that we should look at the whole cycle of a conflict rather than waiting until it is raging to take action, as the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone has so eloquently just said. We must be better at engaging earlier in support of prevention. We must also stay the course, providing long-term financial aid and diplomatic support to countries emerging from conflict in order to help make sure that they do not relapse into violence. That should not be controversial.

Secondly, we also welcome the focus on a more coherent United Nations approach to sustaining peace at the national level, with greater joint analysis and collaboration within United Nations country teams and with United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions. Sustaining peace means not just ensuring that all United Nations planning, policy and programming is conflict-sensitive, but also that it actually works to reduce conflict. UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme, which have so much to offer in that area, are very much part of this.

Thirdly, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) annual report (A/70/714) flags a range of good, important work done over the past year under Ambassador Skoog's innovative chairship. We strongly agree, however, with the resolution's point that the PBC has to be more flexible and agile in its structures in order to better support countries affected by conflict, improve the coherence of the work of the United Nations and other regional and international bodies and provide the Security Council with strategic and timely advice. That advice is important and we will want to take account of it in the Council. I agree with Ambassador Kamau that this is an inherently political process.

Finally, the annual report and the resolution rightly point to the excellent work of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). The resolution makes it clear that more funding is needed for the PBF, and we believe that we should capitalize on that momentum. The United Kingdom is currently the largest contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund, but we would really welcome some competition in that area. We are pleased to be joining Kenya and Sweden in co-hosting a PBF pledging event at the General Assembly in September, and we really encourage all Member States to join us in supporting their valuable work.

The United Kingdom itself has been a good friend to peacebuilding activities in the United Nations. We have committed a further $20 million this year alone in various voluntary contributions aimed at strengthening the capacity, coherence and delivery of the peacebuilding work. The United Kingdom now stands ready to work with Kenya, as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and all our other friends and colleagues, to turn this resolution into swift and practical action.

Mr. Yoshikawa (Japan): I am very pleased to be addressing the General Assembly at this joint debate. I would like to begin by congratulating Ambassador Kamau of Kenya on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for 2016. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Skoog of Sweden for his excellent leadership over the past year as Chair of the PBC, and to all the Chairs of the country-specific configurations for their efforts.

The year 2015 was a crucial one for United Nations peacebuilding activity. The efforts of the PBC coincided with the review process of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Japan welcomes the simultaneous adoption today of important resolutions by both the General Assembly (resolution 70/262) and the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)). I congratulate the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia, and I am sincerely grateful for their tireless efforts.

It is now important that we all implement the resolution. Japan very much hopes that it will help the PBC improve its performance of its intended function as an advisory body to the principal organs of the United Nations, especially the Security Council. Let me illustrate that point with a specific example.

The strength of the PBC lies in the long-term endeavours whereby it lays the groundwork for peace. During my chairmanship of the PBC Working Group on Lessons Learned, we tried to highlight those comparative strengths. In 2015, the Working Group focused its efforts on the importance of institution-building. Throughout the discussion, we were firmly convinced that strengthening core State institutions that provide security, justice, public administration and basic social services is fundamental to a successful transition from a post-conflict situation to lasting peace. With a view to providing input into the review process, such lessons learned and the outstanding challenges were summarized in the Working Group's final report, entitled "Institution-building: the challenges for the United Nations system". The main points were also reflected in the PBC's annual report (A/70/714), just presented by Ambassador Skoog. The Working Group's report is an embodiment of the PBC's mandated advisory role, and I hope it will continue to be referred to in future discussions.

I am pleased that the resolution refers to the importance of institution-building. I also welcome the fact that the Security Council expresses its intention to regularly request, deliberate and draw on the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the PBC, including to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace, as stated in paragraph 8 of the resolution. Let us now implement the resolution by having the Security Council regularly invite the PBC Chairs to meetings and request their advice. I will do so during Japan's forthcoming presidency of the Council for the month of July if relevant agenda items are discussed.

Securing adequate resources for peacebuilding and conflict prevention is crucial, as many previous speakers have pointed out. There is no denying that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has proved to be an important financial tool for that purpose. Recognizing both the usefulness of the Fund and the current difficulties it is facing, Japan contributed an additional $3.5 million to it last month. That will bring our total contribution to $46 million.

The comparative advantage of the PBF lies in its ability to respond swiftly and flexibly. Japan has consistently argued that this strength of the Fund needs to be maintained and must not be undermined. This position remains firmly intact. As the Assembly urges in the resolution, Japan calls on other Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to the Fund.

As President of the Security Council, Japan plans to hold an open debate on peacebuilding in Africa in the month of July. This open debate will build on the work of the PBC during 2015, as well as on the resolution just adopted. The open debate will provide an excellent opportunity for us to discuss the challenges and elevate our peacebuilding efforts even further in the years ahead.

Let me conclude my statement by reaffirming Japan's strong commitment to peacebuilding.

Ms. Lodhi (Pakistan): My delegation commends the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, for his statement and his sterling contribution to the work of the Commission.

The report before us (A/70/714) provides a useful overview of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) during its ninth session, and we welcome its action-oriented recommendations. Peacebuilding activities produce tangible results on the ground. Improvement in the lives of ordinary people affected by conflict is a time-tested yardstick that we can and do use to evaluate this important work.

Pakistan has seen the result of the work undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission first hand, both as a member of the Commission and as one of the top troop contributors to countries where much of this work takes place. This experience confirms our belief that strengthening the peacebuilding architecture and advancing the peacebuilding agenda are not just important but imperative.

The past year has been a seminal one for the PBC. Beginning with the work of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, we have all directed much effort to strengthen and improve United Nations peacebuilding. We commend the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia, for steering the process that led to adoption of resolution 70/262 on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture earlier today. The simultaneous adoption of the resolution in the Security Council and the General Assembly successfully brings to an end this review process. Now it is time for implementation. We should be able to see change on the ground, where it matters most, in the form of a strengthened and effective peacebuilding mechanism.

The resolution that we have just adopted is based on two very important precepts: sustainable peace and inclusivity. Lasting peace is possible only through the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes. And inclusivity is the linchpin for sustainable peace. This requires close partnership with national stakeholders and respect for national priorities and policies. An enhanced role for women and youth is also critical and essential for success.

There are, as we all know, many silos in the United Nations system, and different processes work independently on interrelated issues. We must strive to better utilize the work of the PBC. Enhancing its interaction and advisory role with the principal organs of the United Nations is therefore critical.

One of the principal achievements of the Commission over the past couple of years was managing the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The PBC and the country-specific configurations made a concerted endeavour to respond to the peacebuilding-related aspects of the recovery effort. The Ebola crisis exposed challenges related to the consolidation of peace. The PBC's nimbleness and flexibility in responding to the Ebola crisis brought about a more coherent response. Those are important lessons for us to absorb for the future.

The report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/70/715), on the other hand, paints a grim picture of waning finances limiting the PBC's ability to match demand. This shortcoming has also been identified in the review process. Sufficient and predictable resources will be required to support early, high-risk peacebuilding and to promote system-wide coherence. The resolution also touches upon this aspect. The PBC's focus on domestic resource mobilization is important, but enhancing international financial support and ensuring its predictability is far more critical.

The Peacebuilding Commission has a vital role in conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the avoidance of any relapse of conflict. Investment in equipping the PBC to match challenges is really investing in our future. The review process that we have just completed should breathe new life into the PBC, making it more responsive and effective.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Permanent Representative of Sweden, Ambassador Skoog, for his contribution over the past year as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). I congratulate the Permanent Representative of Kenya, Ambassador Kamau, on his election as Chair of the PBC.

The General Assembly and the Security Council have just adopted resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016), respectively, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, establishing guidelines for the future efforts of the United Nations in the field of peacebuilding.

In late 2014, the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, and the Security Council jointly launched the comprehensive review process of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Through their collective efforts, States Members of the United Nations have achieved a positive outcome in the comprehensive review and, by summarizing their experiences of the past 10 years, they have put forward ideas on how to improve the work of peacebuilding. We would like to work together with Member States to comprehensively implement the relevant content of the resolution, promote and improve United Nations efforts in the field of peacebuilding and enable the United Nations to better fulfil its responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

Peacebuilding is an innovative endeavour of the United Nations in the field of peace and development. Since its establishment in 2006, the organs of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, which include the PBC, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Support Office, have comprehensively fulfilled the mandates entrusted to them by the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, actively coordinated the peacebuilding efforts of the international community in post-conflict countries, played an important role in achieving the common objectives of the United Nations for world peace and development, and implemented the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. China wishes to focus on four points with regard to future work in the area of peacebuilding.

First, it is imperative to adhere to the principle of national ownership by the host country. In order to achieve lasting peace and development in post-conflict countries, the efforts of the countries concerned are crucial. In developing and carrying out peacebuilding efforts, the international community should respect the sovereignty and ownership of the countries concerned and provide constructive efforts in the light of their needs and wills.

Secondly, it is essential to design and implement policies in the light of the actual conditions on the ground. The conditions of post-conflict countries vary and countries have different needs at different times. The priorities and programmes of peacebuilding should be adapted to the actual conditions of the countries concerned and be interfaced with their overall development strategies, priority areas and objectives, so as to ensure that the assistance provided will meet their actual needs and achieve optimum results. China encourages the PBF to pay to close attention to the capacity-building of the countries concerned and to comprehensively increase efficiency.

Thirdly, it is imperative to strengthen the integrated approaches and coordination and improve efficiency. Peacebuilding efforts span the political, social, security and economic fields. They involve the participation of Governments of the countries concerned, other relevant countries, regional organizations, the United Nations and international finance institutions. The PBC should fully assume its role as an intergovernmental advisory body, actively coordinate the peacebuilding efforts of the international community, rationally manage its resources and build complementarity in advantages.

Fourthly, it is crucial to pay great attention to root causes and comprehensively advance the work of peacebuilding. Peacebuilding should be aimed at helping post-conflict countries achieve development through their own efforts and promote lasting peace. Peacebuilding should work in synergy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) and focus on addressing poverty, underdevelopment and other major underlying issues that give rise to conflicts and crises; comprehensively promote reconstruction efforts in post-conflict countries in all sectors; and promote coordinated socioeconomic development in the countries concerned.

The President of China pointed out, during his participation in the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda on the occasion of the Organization's seventieth anniversary (see A/70/PV.13), that we should further promote the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, fashion a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation at its core and build a community of common destiny for humankind. China is ready to work together with other Member States to promote the cause of United Nations peacebuilding and peacekeeping and make greater contributions to that endeavour.

Mr. Sadykov (Kazakhstan): I would like to convey our warmest appreciation for the untiring efforts of the Permanent Representative of Sweden as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2015 and wish the Permanent Representative of Kenya every success in his new role as current Chair of the Commission.

The Republic of Kazakhstan strongly supports the work and commends the role of the Commission over the past year, especially in implementing country-specific activities, elaborating recommendations to overcome the detrimental effects of the Ebola crisis, and ensuring more structural integration of gender aspects and investment in youth in achieving peace and security.

This debate comes at a crucial moment, when the review of the peacebuilding architecture is in the final stage of its consideration. The adoption of resolution 70/262 today will greatly enhance the work of the Commission and consolidate the collective efforts in sustaining peace and security. In this regard, we specially commend the hard work of the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Angola, as co-facilitators of an inclusive intergovernmental process. We would like to highlight several points that are of relevance to increase the success and effectiveness of the peacebuilding architecture.

Peacebuilding is not to be confined to the post-conflict phase only, but also has to be integrated into all United Nations efforts from the very start and into all conflict-prevention and resolution mechanisms. We believe that such investments would prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflicts. They would definitely be considerably less expensive and more sustainable than merely reacting to crises.

The current review comes with a greater need for the United Nations to have more effective coordination, synergy of mandates and system-wide coherence across the sectors of peace and security, development and human rights. More positive outcomes also demand closer collaboration with other intergovernmental and international organizations for more streamlined operations and implementation of policy directives. Therefore, we believe that the original design and interventions must be modified accordingly to suit contemporary environments and the changing nature of conflicts.

It is critical for the United Nations system to achieve a greater internal convergence of mandates among its agencies and country teams on the ground, together with regional structures and organizations. The importance of enhanced partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, as well as with international financial institutions, cannot be overemphasized. All measures must be coordinated with those of the special representatives of the Secretary-General, the special political missions and peacekeeping operations.

What is most critical is adequate and assured financing to assess and mitigate the factors that trigger conflicts. Steady monetary resources are needed for building stable foundations of society in the post-conflict phase, since development and peace are two sides of the same coin. Therefore, the role of the Peacebuilding Fund in helping to garner resources has to be strengthened and the international community must collectively seek ways to do so. We take this opportunity to praise the launch of the Peacebuilding Fund's new cross-border initiative in the Central Asian region, along the border of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as the allocation of over 15 per cent of investments to support women's empowerment.

Foreseeing future threats, President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, while addressing the General Assembly during the general debate of its seventieth session last year (see A/70/PV.13), proposed the development of a global strategy that could eliminate conflict for all times. It was also suggested that part of national military expenditures be invested in the Sustainable Development Goals Fund.

Kazakhstan provides humanitarian and development assistance to several crises areas. In particular, we are working closely with the African Union and its various councils and mechanisms to ensure durable peace. Recently, Kazakhstan signed the Third-Party Cost-Sharing Agreement with the United Nations Development Programme with a view to implementing the Africa-Kazakhstan Partnership for Sustainable Development to benefit 45 countries in the region.

To conclude, Kazakhstan stands ready always to build the peacebuilding architecture in order to lay solid foundations for regional and global stability.

Mrs. Arrieta Munguia (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Today, the General Assembly and the Security Council have taken an important step forward with the adoption of resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016), which call for change in the way in which the Organization seeks to establish peace. With time we have learned that the old model of acting only when a crisis breaks out is unsustainable. We have to build peace before, during and after conflicts. We also know that if this peace is to be sustainable, it must be carried out not only from the top down and include the most influential actors, but also from the bottom up and include and listen to all segments of society. If it is to be more than a mere peace on paper, it must be a peace that includes development, security, justice and the institutions that protect basic rights; it must speak to young people and provide them with economic opportunities; and it must not marginalize women. This entire process, which is also an end in itself, is what we, States Members of the United Nations, call "sustainable peace".

Ten years after having established the peacebuilding architecture, we are ready and we have powerful instruments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, to make the 360-degree turn that is necessary to place human beings at the centre of this peace and which goes to the root of conflicts. Mexico supports not only a change at the epicentre of our peacebuilding efforts from the reactive approach in which we have been mired for years to a preventative approach, but also the redefinition of the very peacebuilding architecture within the Organization. We believe that, in order to speak about sustainable peace, we must establish a true dialogue between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

My delegation sees clear progress in the fact that the resolutions we have adopted today reflect the desire of Member States to go beyond the fragmentation of these bodies, using the Peacebuilding Commission as a bridge and making effective use of its role as a intergovernmental advisory body. We also value the fact that we are rethinking the working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission and seeking flexibility that would allow it to act more freely and in closer proximity with the countries in conflict with a variety of approaches that take into account the particular context of a country or region.

Similarly, the issue of financial resources is a fundamental part of any serious review process that we undertake and will also be important for the future of the peacebuilding architecture. While requests and mandates, to do more, must be accompanied by the corresponding resources, we also need strategic planning, which would make it possible to have greater efficiency and effectiveness in the Organization's work. In this respect, the analysis that the Secretary-General will provide to the General Assembly on the financial arrangements for this architecture and his proposals for specific actions to shore up in both substance and in form the peacebuilding architecture, which aims to promote a peaceful world through inclusion, will also be important. However, overcoming the inertia in the design of critical road maps to achieve sustainable peace will require efforts by everyone. That is why Mexico is ready to continue and support this process, which we are beginning today.

Lastly, Mexico would like to sincerely acknowledge the work of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, which was wisely led by Ambassador Gert Rosenthal and which made it possible for us to use as a guideline from this joint consideration a transformative concept, namely, that of sustainable peace, under the concepts of inclusiveness, prevention and in particular coherence within the Organization. We also acknowledge the efforts made by the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia, who led our discussions with empathy, patience and dedication.

Mr. Djani (Indonesia): My delegation wishes to thank the President of the General Assembly for his remarks regarding resolution 70/262, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. We also express our deep appreciation to Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), for his comprehensive presentation, and commend the hard work of the previous Chair, Ambassador Olof Skoog, who is also the new Vice-Chair together with the Republic of Korea, along with all the Chairs of the six country-specific configurations and the Working Group on Lessons Learned. We would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, along with his able team, for their strong commitment to supporting the mandate of the PBC and administering the Peacebuilding Fund.

Indonesia welcomes the adoption of the resolution, entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture", which emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, especially through the prevention of conflict. This resolution provides valuable substantive provisions for the advancement of the United Nations peacebuilding efforts. My delegation is pleased that various key elements are reflected in the resolution, including the importance of diversifying the PBC's working methods, the need for strong coordination between the Security Council and the PBC, and the need for predictable and sustained financing to United Nations peacebuilding activities. We hope that its implementation will lead to enhanced support on peacebuilding in a comprehensive and coordinated manner for the countries that request it.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Angola for their hard work as the co-facilitators during the intergovernmental negotiations on the draft resolution. We also thank Bangladesh, as the Coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement Caucus of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as various parties and diplomats that have done an excellent job in negotiating this resolution.

Regarding the PBC's annual report (A/70/714), Indonesia is pleased that the PBC's key objectives during its ninth session included adopting more transparent working methods and a more flexible agenda, as well as improving partnerships with regional and subregional organizations. The PBC needs to continue to explore ways to adopt more flexible and lighter working methods to better adapt to current challenges on the ground.

On the advisory role of the Commission, we share the view stated in the report that by providing context-specific and tailored advice, the PBC could ensure that national priorities can be factored into the Security Council's mandate design and implementation. The element of national priorities is crucial throughout the whole United Nations engagement process with host countries.

With regard to the 2015 annual session under the theme of predictable financing for peacebuilding, we note that fragmentation and pooled funding have been among the aspects mentioned in the two sessions. Guided by the needs identified by host countries, the United Nations system and donors should try to improve their coordination and timelines, as well as avoid unnecessary duplication in their work.

Moreover, the significance of increased civilian capacity-building support to the countries affected or emerging from conflict cannot be emphasized enough. Adequately resourced, as well as properly governed, national institutions that serve citizens with transparency and accountability are essential to sustaining peace and sustaining peacebuilding dividends. It is indeed important to ensure the continuity of the unique dialogue conducted by relevant actors from New York and the field, as well as from the capitals, through the annual session.

We hope that with the new resolution, emphasizing predictable and sustained financing to United Nations peacebuilding activities, the Secretary-General, with the support of Member States, would establish more effective and predictable funding arrangements for United Nations peacebuilding efforts. We take note of the report by the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund, which states that the Fund will initiate new management procedures in 2016 to ensure that available resources are used to maximum advantage and to provide decision-makers with the information necessary to make the case for sufficient levels of predictable funding.

To effectively address conflicts, which have increased threefold since 2007, and a number of present situations that pose a risk of relapse, along with the provision of adequate financial resources, sustained effort at dialogue, mediation and conflict avoidance will certainly be critical. Where the Security Council will have to play its role deftly, the PBC advice to the Council and its supporting role will also be crucial. After the adoption of the new resolution, a strong hope has manifested. It is now with all United Nations principal organs, the PBC and other United Nations system actors as to how effective and supportive they are willing to be in fully realizing the aims of the resolution. For its part, Indonesia will continue to contribute to all meaningful efforts to further strengthen the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Ambassador Olof Skoog for his commitment as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in the past year and to assure his successor, the Permanent Representative of Kenya, of our full support.

I also want to thank the President of the General Assembly for organizing today's debate, which comes at a propitious moment, as we have just adopted resolution 70/262, entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture", which we welcome and which incorporates many of the recommendations contained in the report (see A/69/968) of the Advisory Group of Experts. In that context, we are grateful to Advisory Group's Chair, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, and its other members for the quality of their work and the level of ambition they have shown. We are also grateful to the Permanent Representatives of the Angola and Australia, who, together with their teams, led negotiations to a positive outcome, namely, the adoption of the resolution this morning.

Luxembourg fully aligns itself with the statement of the observer of the European Union.

The identical resolutions adopted this morning by the General Assembly and the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)) cover many of the priorities to which Luxembourg has been committed since the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, and more specifically as it fulfilled its mandate as Chair of the Guinea country-specific configuration. Those priorities reflect trends already under way within the Peacebuilding Commission in recent years, including those in the report (A/70/714) on its ninth session, which we are discussing today.

Luxembourg strongly believes that the sustainability of peace requires an integrated approach aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflicts, and which brings together Government authorities and other stakeholders at the national level and enjoys the support of the international community. We welcome the fact that the resolution formally endorses such an approach, which should take the form of a long-term political process capable of addressing the root causes of conflict, and that it reaffirms the interdependence of the components of such an integrated approach.

Such an approach must necessarily involve development, peace and security, respect for human rights as well as good governance, and support inclusive national processes that take into account the needs of all segments of society. That has also been what we are trying to do in the Guinea country configuration, while working in a spirit of national ownership with the Guinean authorities and the various components of Guinean society, development partners and regional and subregional organizations, including the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union. Accordingly, the Guinea country configuration, which I have had the honour of chairing since its establishment at the request of the Guinean authorities in February 2011, focuses on national dialogue and an inclusive approach.

The review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture that we have just completed recognizes the need for a flexible approach in the way the Peacebuilding Commission organizes its work. If we want to maximize the value added that the Commission can provide, we must give it the means to quickly grasp national and regional contexts that are not on its agenda, as well as thematic and cross-cutting issues, similar to what was done in 2015 in terms of the transition in Burkina Faso, the peace process in Papua New Guinea and the challenges to peacebuilding in Somalia.

Such an approach was also successfully put into practice in 2014 in connection with the Ebola epidemic. The Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone country configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission were able to offer their platforms for the purposes of mobilizing international attention, not only with respect to the threat posed to public health but also with respect to the stability of the countries concerned, and beyond, to the stability of the West African region as a whole. For its part, the Peacebuilding Fund was able to play its role, extending the resources needed to face the challenges to peace and security.

Without providing an exhaustive list, I would like once again to refer to some aspects that for some time now have been among the priorities of the Peacebuilding Commission and whose relevance has been reaffirmed today, namely, the need to take the gender perspective into account in peacebuilding efforts in a cross-cutting manner and the need to recognize the role of young people in preventing and ending conflict. Similarly, it is important to mention the importance of transitional justice as a key element in building peace and stability and in laying the foundation for development.

The even more ambitious recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Group of Experts, in particular with regard to increased funding for peacebuilding activities and to improving the predictability of funding, are certainly worth implementing. However, we strongly believe that the peacebuilding architecture put into place today through the recent review is an important step forward. From now on, it will be important to take full advantage of it. The General Assembly can count on the commitment and continuous support of Luxembourg to that end.

Mr. Ripkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): United Nations peacekeeping is one of the most important tools for helping States settle conflict, overcome the consequences of conflict and prevent the resurgence of crises. We welcome the simultaneous adoption today by the General Assembly and the Security Council of resolutions reviewing the peacebuilding architecture of the Organization (resolution 70/262 and Security Council 2282 (2016)). These resolutions should help United Nations bodies to adapt to current realities in post-conflict countries and increase their effectiveness.

We hope that the aims and objectives as outlined by Member States for preserving peace will make a positive contribution to the efforts to resolve and prevent conflict. We believe it is imperative to acknowledge, as established in the resolution, that the responsibility for safeguarding peace is borne first and foremost by national stakeholders. The United Nations and international entities, when necessary and with the agreement of the accepting parties, will provide assistance, which should be focused on building the capacity of afflicted countries to overcome conflict. We believe that key to that perspective is the inclusiveness of national political processes and the awareness of the population's general responsibility for peace.

The resolution adopted today specifies the functions of the Peacebuilding Commission. It is an intergovernmental consultative body and therefore occupies an essential place in the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. We call on the Organizational Committee to carry out a review of its working methods. We hope that such a review will serve to increase the effectiveness of the Commission's work in accordance with its mandate as set forth in Security Council resolution 1645 (2005). We also hope that it will increase the quality of the advice it provides to the Security Council on the settlement of situations in countries within the purview of both bodies.

Increasing the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts is the purpose of the important appeal to strengthen the coordination and cooperation among the various structures and bodies within the United Nations on peacebuilding issues. In that context, it is important to underline that such efforts should be undertaken strictly within the framework of the corresponding mandates. Otherwise, instead of it being a positive impetus, we will just find confusion where everybody will be doing everything but, at the same time, nobody will be responsible for anything.

A specific section of the resolution is devoted to questions of financing for peacebuilding, including through the Peacebuilding Fund. The Fund has proved to be an important mechanism for facilitating recovery and development. We expect the Secretary-General to take a well-rounded view of reasonable options for guaranteeing long-term financing, on the basis of which the General Assembly will be able to reach agreement.

Ms. Faizunnesa (Bangladesh): We thank the President of the General Assembly for convening today's plenary meeting and welcome the adoption of the comprehensive and forward-looking resolution 70/262, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. We join others in commending the work of Australia and Angola as facilitators of the negotiations on the resolution in its draft form.

Bangladesh had the privilege to act as the spokesperson for the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM) during the informal negotiations on the resolution. We wish to put on record our appreciation for all NAM members for their unstinting trust and support.

We would now look forward to the effective implementation of the resolution, building on the constructive recommendations of the Advisory Group of Experts. We believe the General Assembly's upcoming high-level thematic debate on peace and security can offer a platform for orienting our focus on implementing the various aspects of the resolution within a broader, holistic framework. The annual report (A/70/714) of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on its ninth session, held last year, makes it evident that the Commission has already embarked on a number of measures and initiatives to that end. We appreciate the vision statement and the six-month work programme presented by the current PBC Chair, as well as the work achieved so far along those lines. We hope the adoption of the resolution today will add further impetus to the Commission's work on diversifying its working methods in order to give its Organizational Committee greater depth, dimension and flexibility in addressing issues relevant to sustaining peace.

It is quite significant that our experience of United Nations peacebuilding work over the past 10 years has led us to coalesce at the conceptual level on the notion of sustaining peace. The clear definition of that term, as set forth in the resolution, justifiably broadens the traditional and rather restrictive notion of peacebuilding and underscores the importance of sustained political support through the entire spectrum of conflicts, including by preventing a relapse into conflict. We hope that this notion will be duly acknowledged by all the principal organs of the Organization as well as other relevant stakeholders with a view to giving peacebuilding a real chance to deliver on its potentials in national, regional and multilateral contexts. With that in mind, we wish to reiterate the importance we attach to five critical issues.

First, the centrality of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding must be valued and preserved beyond merely being mentioned. International and regional support for peacebuilding can play a catalytic role, but can bring about dividends only if it is anchored in firm commitments led by national Governments and authorities. It is of paramount importance to foster an environment for inclusive peacebuilding where a diverse set of national actors with legitimate voices and interests have an opportunity to participate and contribute.

Secondly, the fragmentation of peacebuilding activities within and outside the United Nations system poses a serious challenge to the fundamental objectives and to credibility of peacebuilding. We feel encouraged at seeing some efforts being made within the United Nations, including on the ground, to break down the so-called silos. It must remain a constant preoccupation for the PBC, through its convening and advisory roles, to further consolidate those efforts, particularly towards bringing the security and development actors closer together without undercutting their respective mandates and competence.

Thirdly, it is also encouraging to see the increase in the importance of the PBC's interface with the relevant regional organizations, especially in Africa, and its growing focus on regional cross-cutting issues. If the PBC is effectively allowed to broaden its focus beyond the ambit of its agenda, it may be worth exploring how the Commission could create its niche relevance through meaningful engagement with concerned regional entities in parts of the world where it matters. The PBC's value-added work on the Ebola crisis in West Africa could be replicated through other relevant and emerging issues of concern, including the seminal task of long-term institution-building.

Fourthly, the PBC's gender strategy and discussions on the role of young people in peacebuilding are valuable contributions to promoting the inclusivity agenda in peacebuilding. It is important that those approaches find resonance in the peacebuilding activities of other relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes. All concerned should focus on leveraging their respective strengths instead of repackaging similar interventions without much coordination.

Fifthly, and perhaps most important, the issue of financing for peacebuilding remains a major stumbling block to realizing its full value. We hope that the unequivocal emphasis on increased, predictable and sustainable financing in the current resolution will help garner sufficient political support towards mobilizing much-needed resources for peacebuilding, including for the Peacebuilding Fund. We look forward to creative ideas from the Secretary-General on mobilizing finances, factoring in both assessed and voluntary contributions. The notion of sustaining peace will have meaning only if it is matched with enabling resources.

Bangladesh remains an ardent believer in peacebuilding and will remain engaged in further strengthening the United Nations peacebuilding architecture through consensus among the wider membership. Our Government recently took the initiative to establish a peacebuilding centre, which we believe will broaden regional and international efforts in that regard through substantive research and training activities. We invite all interested States to join us in making that venture the success that is envisaged.

Mr. Perera (Sri Lanka): I thank the President of the General Assembly for convening today's plenary meeting.

We welcome the adoption of resolution 70/262, on the General Assembly's 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. The resolution and the identical Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) are the outcomes of a lengthy and arduous intergovernmental consultation process. My delegation wishes to place on record its deepest gratitude to Ambassador Bird of Australia and Ambassador Gaspar Martins of Angola for co-facilitating and diligently guiding us through the consultative process. Our thanks also go to the experts of the Australian and Angolan Permanent Missions, without whose efforts this outcome would not have been possible.

The adoption of resolution 70/262 and the parallel Security Council resolution is most timely. It augurs well for the strengthening of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to deal with the contemporary challenges in peacebuilding. That is particularly important in the context of the human cost of and the great suffering caused by conflicts across the globe in these troubled times. Conflict prevention, effective peacebuilding, addressing the root causes of conflict and ensuring non-recurrence would save millions of lives from the scourge of conflict and war. It is imperative in that regard that measures to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict be taken forthwith. The present resolution reflects our collective will to tread down that path.

It is also encouraging to note that the resolution recognizes and welcomes the role of the Peacebuilding Commission as the dedicated intergovernmental advisory body for conferring a strategic element and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts. Equally encouraging is the resolve of the Member States to revitalize the Peacebuilding Support Office.

As a country emerging from a 30-year conflict that left deep scars in the entire socioethnic fabric of the nation, Sri Lanka is uniquely placed to reflect on the human cost and the indescribable suffering that the conflict brought about and to commit ourselves to post-conflict peacebuilding. In that context, reconciliation and healing the hearts and minds of our people have become our top-most priorities. We are deeply conscious of the fact that peacebuilding has to be done as a matter of urgency to prevent the recurrence of conflict. The political transition in Sri Lanka in January of last year brought about crucial opportunities for peacebuilding in the country. Our aim is to promote national reconciliation while giving priority to generating trust and confidence-building measures among people affected by the long conflict.

As pointed out by several speakers this morning, we also believe that peacebuilding is an inherently political process. It is also essentially a nationally owned process that needs to be properly sequenced, taking into account the national circumstances and with the assistance of all stakeholders, including the United Nations.

Post-conflict peacebuilding in Sri Lanka is almost synonymous with post-conflict reconciliation and is based on the principle of national ownership. We have recognized that the process of reconciliation involves addressing the broad areas of truth-seeking, justice, reparations and non-recurrence. The process of working out the contours of the architecture of the domestic mechanisms for truth-seeking, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence is evolving.

In Sri Lanka the process of national consultations on transitional justice, which is a victim-centred process, has already begun. There is significant civil-society involvement in that process. We have obtained technical assistance from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence in the crucial task of framing the questions for consultations. I wish to mention with gratitude that the process is supported by funding from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). The funding was granted pursuant to the declaration last year by the Secretary-General that Sri Lanka was a country eligible to receive financial support from the Fund. We also welcome and appreciate the funding assistance received from the Peacebuilding Fund for the resettlement of the last of the conflict-affected internally displaced persons, thereby supporting Sri Lanka's national reconciliation efforts.

Those projects were funded by the Peacebuilding Fund's Immediate Response Facility. A longer-term peacebuilding plan is currently being prepared by the Peacebuilding Support Office in consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka, for which longer-term, predictable funding would be essential.

I would be remiss if I did not place enough stress during today's debate, as other speakers have done, to the importance of adequate, predictable and sustained financing for United Nations peacebuilding efforts. The resolution rightfully identifies that dire need. In that regard, we welcome the resolution's recognition of the importance of strengthening partnerships between the United Nations and key stakeholders, in particular international financial institutions.

Strengthening the Peacebuilding Fund through adequate contributions is of paramount importance. The funding of the PBF enables the United Nations to seize political opportunities it would likely otherwise miss. However, it is discouraging to learn that the Peacebuilding Fund is hampered by decreasing contributions, where the projected contributions in 2016 fall far short of the actual funding needs for peacebuilding activities across the globe.

In that context, Sri Lanka welcomes the proposed donor pledging conference to be held on the margins of the General Assembly's seventy-first session in September with a view to refinancing the Peacebuilding Fund as a follow-up to resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), both adopted today. Sri Lanka is pleased to confirm that it will co-host the pledging conference with the Peacebuilding Support Office and several other Member States, as was mentioned earlier this morning. We are of the view that a donor pledging conference of this nature would help to increase the level of contributions, the number of donors and the predictability of PBF funding, by way of voluntary contributions, including multi-year commitments. We look forward to the active participation of Member States at the pledging conference.

Mr. Lambertini (Italy): Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

We welcome today's adoption of the resolution on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (resolution 70/262) and the debate on the annual report (A/70/714) of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) (A/70/715). At the outset, we offer our thanks to the facilitators, Ambassador Bird of Australia and Ambassador Gaspar Martins of Angola, for their tireless work; the Advisory Group of Experts and its Chair, Ambassador Rosenthal, for their insight; the current PBC Chair, Ambassador Kamau, and the previous Chair, Ambassador Skoog, as well as the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Ambassador Fernandez-Taranco, for their resolute efforts.

As a member of the Organizational Committee of the PBC, Italy looks forward to the concrete implementation of today's resolution, which will lead to a strengthened Peacebuilding Commission, reinforce its role as a valuable tool for the Security Council and enhance the overall capacity of the United Nations in the field of preventive diplomacy.

We have before us a very comprehensive review of the sector. I will briefly touch upon some points that are particularly dear to Italy.

First of all, we deeply appreciate the change in mindset and the new concept of sustaining peace. It is not just a matter of words; it has profound implications on how we carry out our work. Peacebuilding should no longer be seen as a post-conflict activity, since the challenge of sustaining peace runs across the complete cycle of our engagement to prevent conflicts and avoid relapse. In practical terms, Italy believes we have to implement an integrated strategy to prevent cross-regional threats, such as extremist violence and terrorism, illicit trafficking, smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings, by addressing their root causes, and to sustain peace, once achieved, by capacity- and institution-building initiatives.

Secondly, the United Nations is now the main global enabler of partnerships to sustain peace. Greater cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, multilateral institutions and civil-society organizations is therefore essential, and Italy stands ready to do its part and use all the means at its disposal to that end. In that context, the PBC's country-specific configurations play a pivotal role.

Thirdly, Italy endorses the importance the resolution gives to women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. We recognize the continuing need to increase the representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, and the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace. That is why last September our Prime Minister Renzi pledged to give more resources, up to €50 million in the next two years, to programmes dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

My last point is on the need to secure more predictable funding for peacebuilding, in particular to the PBF. Strengthening cooperation with the World Bank and other financial institutions, as well as addressing the silo approach of the donor community, are pivotal issues. But we must also deploy alternative resources for peacebuilding activities, including non-monetary contributions and contributions from the private sector. In that regard, Italy has already decided to resume its contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund throughout 2016. Our objective is to do more by ensuring adequate and predictable funds for peacebuilding through long-term commitments. Italy strongly believes that, bearing in mind the costs of conflicts and instability, preventive diplomacy is not only the right choice but also the smart one.

I would like to conclude by highlighting an issue that Italy believes is at the core of building peaceful and inclusive societies — the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage. Preserving a society's cultural heritage, and in particular protecting it from terrorist acts and trafficking, as well as promoting and respecting cultural diversity, is a key element in the reconciliation and peacebuilding processes. No society can flourish without culture, and no shared relationships can be established without respecting a people's history and its soul. For those reasons, building on numerous previous activities, on 16 February Italy and UNESCO signed a landmark agreement establishing a task force for protecting ancient cultural artifacts in crisis areas. Those so-called Blue Helmets of culture are a tangible sign of Italy's commitment to the Unite for Heritage campaign and to building and sustaining peace.

Ms. Amadeo (United States of America): I would like to thank the President, Ambassador Skoog and Ambassador Kamau for their statements today. I would also like to congratulate Australia and Angola, the Chairs of the 2015 peacebuilding review, as well as the Chairs of the country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), on their work. We are grateful for all of their efforts to assist many of the world's most fragile States in their efforts to recover from conflict and to improve the capabilities of the United Nations in that regard as well. Today's meeting is especially important against the backdrop of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture review, culminating in today's adoptions of identical General Assembly and Security Council resolutions (resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)).

The year 2016 is an important one for the peacebuilding architecture. We have come a long way since the review began, in early 2015. Over the past year, the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, other United Nations entities, Member States and many international partners not only collectively acknowledged that peacebuilding remained under-recognized, they all decided to do something about it. Manifest in today's resolutions are both a body of knowledge and an agenda for action on peacebuilding on which the international community has deliberated for the past year. The United States fully supports their adoption and looks forward to their full implementation. My Government hopes that they will help to ensure that the United Nations system can be more strategic, coordinated and effective in post-conflict contexts.

We support the resolutions' assertion that United Nations conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding cannot be addressed or managed in silos. We agree with their language on the concept of sustaining peace, in which the United Nations and the international engagement should be better linked across every stage of a conflict. We also support their highlighting of the need for improved partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and other multilateral and regional organizations and peacebuilding efforts. Furthermore, my Government also strongly supports the resolutions' emphasis on women and on the promotion of human rights in peacebuilding, among other issues. Above all, however, it is all of our responsibilities — Member States and the United Nations community — to ensure that the peacekeeping architecture review has real impact. Today's adoption should be only a first step towards broader implementation of the resolutions. We look forward to working with everyone here on that broader endeavour.

Turning now to this year's report (A/70/714) of the Peacebuilding Commission, it is clear that we have made some progress in preventing conflicts and building the conditions for peace in places that have a history of unrest. In Guinea-Bissau the PBC played an active role in fostering donor coordination, including the March 2015 Brussels conference that resulted in the unprecedented mobilization of more than €1 billion. In the Central African Republic the PBC helped to raise awareness about the lack of funding for several priorities in that country, including elections and mediation. The PBC was one of the main international actors in the Central African Republic rallying for additional funds for elections, which had presented a key obstacle to achieving the political transition we all seek.

Sustaining the international community's attention to countries emerging from crises is at the core of the Peacebuilding Commission's work. A key example lies in the PBC's continuing attention to the Ebola crisis. Following the PBC Chair's visit to West Africa in April, the special meeting he held here in New York highlighted the critical gaps and challenges in the areas of governance, institution-building and civic engagement. That meeting, along with the PBC's continued engagement on those issues, was critical to ensuring that key peacebuilding needs were addressed in the recovery phase of the Ebola epidemic.

Turning to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), there are many achievements that deserve the attention of this body, but I would like to highlight three aspects from the PBF's annual report (A/70/715) that we find particularly encouraging. The year 2015 marked the first time that the Fund successfully met the Secretary-General's target for supporting gender equality and women's empowerment. We were pleased to learn that it allocated 15.7 per cent to women's initiatives. While we recognize that there is still much work to be done to fully mainstream gender throughout peacebuilding portfolios, we welcome the PBF's commitment to developing a strategy to mainstream gender in its country-specific engagements. As we know, when women actively participate at all levels of political decision-making, we are all safer, our efforts at peacebuilding are stronger and around the world constitutions and peace agreements are more inclusive, just and lasting.

We are also encouraged by the PBF's work in Burundi, where its support has enabled the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to remain operational following the closing of the United Nations Office in Burundi. The OHCHR provides vital human-rights monitoring and reporting and is one of the only bodies doing such monitoring in Burundi as political space there continues to shrink.

Finally, PBF funding for UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme has helped to provide key messaging on Ebola in Guinea's historically volatile Forestière region. The PBF had previously given support to that community during the crisis in Liberia and had built a network through which trusted messaging about the health response to Ebola was successfully delivered to local communities. Thanks in part to that PBF support, the region was the first in Guinea to be declared Ebola-free.

The year 2015 was a significant one for United Nations peacebuilding. The international community focused on the need to better link its engagement across the arc of conflict, as well as to pay closer attention to the key components of lasting peace after conflict — national ownership, social and political inclusivity, institution-building and predictable financing. Going forward, the stakes remain high, with nothing less than peace and security hanging in the balance. We must seize all opportunities, such as today's meeting, to continue to build on the growing body of lessons of peacebuilding. We must maintain momentum in order to turn the recommendations of the 2015 peacebuilding review into tangible impact.

Mr. Grant (Canada): I would like to begin by thanking the President for overseeing this important process and by congratulating the co-facilitators, Australia and Angola, for shepherding it towards such a strong outcome. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Sweden, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), respectively, for their vision, leadership and commitment.

We have before us the most comprehensive resolution on peacebuilding ever adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council (resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)). That is a truly remarkable achievement and one that will strengthen the collective ability of the entire United Nations system to sustain peace. I would like to highlight three elements that in our view are crucial.

(*spoke in French*)

The first is the concept of sustaining peace. Decades of practice and observation have taught us that conflicts are not linear and that effective prevention requires concrete action on the security, development and human rights fronts. With today's resolution we affirm for the first time that peacebuilding and prevention are two sides of the same coin and specify the tools with which the United Nations system can begin to knock down silos. In order to do that, we must make a serious investment in prevention, tackle the drivers of conflict at all levels and incorporate the idea of sustaining peace at every stage of our efforts. We must also invest in the participation of women at all levels and at all stages.

(*spoke in English*)

Secondly, with regard to the role of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and especially the Security Council have critical roles to play in sustaining peace. The resolution adopted this morning acknowledges the important bridging role that the PBC can play and suggests concrete ways in which this can be done.

For years, we have repeated the mantra that there can be no one-size-fits-all approach to peacebuilding, yet for too long the PBC has had a one-size-fits-all approach to countries on its agenda. With this resolution, we have clear encouragement from Member States for the PBC to build on the good practices initiated by previous Chairs and continue diversifying its working methods to enable it to consider a broader range of countries, regions and issues and enhance its focus on conflict prevention and gender-sensitive peacebuilding.

Finally, with regard to the importance of operational coherence and implementation, this resolution will not implement itself — it requires a coordinated plan of action and a change in mindset, both within the United Nations system and in the way that we, as Member States, approach our work across the United Nations. The resolution identifies important levers and processes through which this can happen: though strengthened partnerships with civil society, regional organizations and international financial institutions; through a strengthened role for the PBC in advising the Security Council; through stronger linkages between the United Nations peacebuilding efforts and the operational activities for development; and by ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

(*spoke in French*)

With this resolution we, the Member States, are defining the changes we want to bring about, the measures we deem necessary to carry out these changes and what we are ready to do to support the Secretary-General in order to establish a more coherent and effective approach to peacekeeping. More than ever before, Canada will be happy to put its shoulder to the wheel.

Mr. Laassel (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): The year 2015 was exceptional, both in terms of the magnitude and degree of the challenges that the international community had to face and the advances made in the search for better harmony and efficiency in our collective action taken to face these threats, namely, through the three major review processes of United Nations action, which were successfully carried out, including the review of the peacebuilding architecture with the Peacebuilding Commission as one of its major pillars.

As shown in the annual report (A/70/714), the Peacebuilding Commission, under the able and active leadership of Ambassador Olof Skoog, to whom I pay tribute, was able over the course of the previous year to accomplish remarkable work, both in terms of the intensity and the tangible and concrete results that were achieved. I also wish Ambassador Kamau of Kenya every success in his chairmanship of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2016.

With the experience it has accumulated over the course of a decade and the excellent mobilization of its members, the PBC has been able to implement through its actions the essence of the recommendations of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, be they those on improving the transparency and flexibility of its working methods, its interaction with the principal United Nations organs or its partnership with regional organizations, not to mention the emphasis placed on the greater involvement of women and youth in peacebuilding.

Another important recommendation that has been taken into account by the PBC is its active engagement in finding effective responses to the issues of funding for peacebuilding activities. We recognize the negative consequences that could result from the lack of predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding efforts. The Peacebuilding Commission has worked to further strengthen the synergy that has developed in its work with the Peacebuilding Fund, which is the second important pillar of the peacebuilding architecture. In this regard, we welcome the publication of the annual report (A/70/715) on the Peacebuilding Fund's activities for 2015. It shows the full extent and relevance of its activities in providing sustained support to countries at risk of falling into conflict situations or those emerging from conflict.

We welcome the commitment shown by the Fund in implementing the main recommendations of the report on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/64/868, annex) by strengthening its cooperation with the international financial institutions, while implementing the third Gender Promotion Initiative in 2016 and expanding its conflict-prevention activity.

We note with concern the difficulties facing the mobilization of predictable and sustainable financing for the Fund, which is worsening with the reduction in donor contributions. The reduction is completely at odds with the increasing need for financing for peacebuilding activities. This is a dilemma that resolution 70/262, which we have just adopted, should aim to respond to.

The resolution on the review is the result of a long intergovernmental process, and it offers us an invaluable opportunity for each State to contribute to this important discussion and contribute to developing a coordinated, efficient and harmonized strategy for peacebuilding in countries that need it. I want to commend the effective leadership and perseverance of the co-facilitators, Angola and Australia, throughout the negotiations.

My delegation has played an active role within the Non-Aligned Movement in all phases of the preparation and negotiation of this resolution. I would like to welcome the especially constructive contribution of the Non-Aligned Movement, which has distinguished itself through its practicality and consistency with the realities on the ground, which it was able to imbue the process with, in particular through the valuable support of African countries.

The text adopted today, which was the subject of intense and sometimes difficult negotiations among the Member States, comprehensively reflects all the concerns and demands of the different groups and has responded in a more than satisfactory manner to the recommendations of the high-level groups. The resolution represents a new phase in the development of peacebuilding activities in that it contains innovative ideas that are better suited to the new realities and which were constantly requested by my delegation when we were the Chairs of the Central African Republic configuration.

Its main asset is its focus on the need to change the current perception of peacebuilding and adopt an innovative multidimensional approach that is more comprehensive and holistic in covering all phases and aspects of the conflict in order to sustain peace. It also draws in all of the United Nations bodies, whether they be principal or subsidiary, and encourages them to focus their actions on peacebuilding, prevention, peacekeeping, restoring peace and post-conflict State-building. It calls for resisting partitioning in the activities of United Nations bodies and highlights the role of the PBC as an important advisory body in supporting those activities. It calls for ensuring the inclusivity of all the different components of post-conflict society in rebuilding the country. It makes national ownership by local actors primarily responsible for the definition of national priorities a necessary condition for achieving definitive and sustainable peace and national reconciliation. It rightfully accords an important role to women and young people in all phases of the peace process. It proposes that we broaden the spectrum of action of the Peacebuilding Commission and include countries and regions by focusing on conflict prevention. Lastly, it reflects the concerns of Member States about the difficulties of mobilizing appropriate financial support in a structured, predictable and sustainable manner.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Morocco's commitment to supporting all peacebuilding actions and its readiness to contribute to the implementation of this resolution.

Mr. Thoms (Germany): Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union.

Today marks an important step forward in the trajectory of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. The 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture resulted in the comprehensive resolution 70/262, which effectively strengthens the performance and impact of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund. Among other achievements, the resolution introduces more transparent and strategic working methods, improves partnerships with regional and subregional actors, bolsters efforts aimed at conflict prevention, and secures critical funding for peacebuilding and gender-related issues.

The resolution also significantly broadens the peacebuilding capabilities of the United Nations system. Unlike previous failed attempts, the resolution advances an integrated approach to conflict prevention. It does not just help countries emerging from conflict to hold on to fragile reconstruction gains; it also aims at reducing the chances of an initial outbreak in countries facing a wide range of destabilizing forces.

As migrants continue to make the perilous journey to Europe, Germany is painstakingly aware of the benefits to be gained from conflict prevention. The migrant crisis is a poignant example of how the failure to prevent conflict can lead to human tragedy. Therefore, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture must continue to evolve into an institution that addresses all types, aspects and stages of conflict prevention. In order to achieve that, we now need to implement this resolution. Germany would therefore welcome a speedy start to the negotiations of the organizational committee's new rules of procedure. This would give life to the idea of a more flexible Peacebuilding Commission as enshrined in the resolution that we just adopted.

Germany will also do its share to address the urgent question of adequate funding of the Peacebuilding Fund. For 2016, we will contribute the amount of €10 million. Germany welcomes the Peacebuilding Fund's instrumental efforts not only to prevent conflict, but also to support the stabilization of countries in the aftermath of a crisis. Germany welcomes today's resolution and looks forward to playing an active role in further strengthening the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

Mr. Hahn Choonghee (Republic of Korea): At the outset, the Republic of Korea welcomes the adoption of resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016) on the United Nations peacebuilding architecture by the General Assembly and the Security Council, respectively. My delegation commends the co-facilitators, the Ambassadors of Angola and Australia, for their leadership during the negotiating process. I also thank the President for convening today's timely and important debate. I appreciate the achievements of the Ambassador of Sweden as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2015 and thank the Ambassador of Kenya for his leadership as this year's Chair of the Commission.

The resolution we have just adopted highlights the importance of the conceptual shift that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by Governments and all other national stakeholders; that it should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations engagement at all stages of the conflict and in all its dimensions; and that it needs sustained international attention and assistance. We believe that the resolution can provide the platform on which the peacebuilding architecture can continue to improve. We also hope that the General Assembly will maintain this comprehensive approach and develop it further by discussing it as an official agenda item, entitled "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", at its seventy-second session. In addition, we hope a series of useful discussions on humanitarian issues will be held, based on this comprehensive perspective, during the world humanitarian summit in Istanbul in May. We look forward to many useful outcomes, which will strengthen the coherence and alignment between our efforts for sustaining peace, development and human rights.

The Republic of Korea is pleased to see the achievements made by the Peacebuilding Commission during its ninth session. The Commission has proved its unique and critical role in many peacebuilding processes by proactively and flexibly responding to various threats at all stages of conflicts, including in particular newly emerging threats, such as Ebola. My delegation believes that strengthening this unique role of the Commission, as a bridge between the United Nations principal organs and as a platform to convene all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, serves the interests of the entire international community. We are also of the view that the Commission should now undertake the task of reforming its working methods in order to better meet the challenges of sustaining peace, as called for by paragraph 5 of the latest resolution.

If the Commission is to better bridge all relevant actors, mobilize resources and advise on integrated strategies for post-conflict and recovery, the systematic and institutional support of the Security Council and the General Assembly will be essential. As the three reviews of the United Nations role in maintaining international peace and security all emphasize, all efforts to create and sustain peace should be aimed at the prevention of conflicts, including the prevention of relapses, in a comprehensive and coherent manner. The Commission should also focus its work in this direction and needs more support from the entire United Nations system to this end.

There were also many considerable achievements in the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund. The Fund has carried out various projects to prevent conflicts and sustain peace in many nations, including Ebola-affected countries, such as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and 20 other countries outside the purview of the Commission, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia and Yemen. It is also commendable that the Fund has enhanced efficiency in resource management while successfully meeting the Secretary-General's target on funding to support gender equality and women's empowerment by allocating 15.7 per cent of its resources to women-centred initiatives.

However, for the second consecutive year, the Fund is significantly underresourced, even though a series of reports, such as the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture and the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95), have validated the useful role played by the Peacebuilding Fund and made recommendations for securing predictable financing. This recommendation deserves more attention and support from Member States today, as contributions from major donors are decreasing while the need for sustained peacebuilding activities is increasing. The Republic of Korea will continue to join in these efforts by increasing its contribution to the Fund in the years ahead.

The Republic of Korea has assumed this year the vice-chairmanship of the Peacebuilding Commission and chairmanship of the Working Group on Lessons Learned. With this important commitment, the Republic of Korea will continue to actively discharge its responsibilities. Fulfilling its mandate, the Republic of Korea will draw on its unique experience of successfully transitioning from a war-torn nation into a peaceful, democratic and prosperous country within a half-century. In this process, the Republic of Korea will continue to actively engage with the wider United Nations membership.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations

A/70/PV.94

General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

94th plenary meeting

Wednesday, 27 April 2016 3 p.m.

New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft .... (Denmark)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Zinsou (Benin), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda items 31 and 110 (*continued*)

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/70/714)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/70/715)

Mr. Mahmoud (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): Resolution 70/262, adopted this morning, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, constitutes a new chapter in the efforts to promote peacebuilding as a major target and goal of the United Nations in terms of maintaining, promoting and sustaining international peace and security. That resolution, which corresponds to Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), on post-conflict peacebuilding, also adopted today, takes into account the development, nature and scope of international crises and conflicts.

The report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/70/714) affirms the responsibility of all United Nations organs to contribute to the elaboration of an integrated vision of sustaining peace, based on the interconnectedness of security, political and development factors. That vision should enable a reduction in the number of armed conflicts and make it possible to find solutions thereto. One of the most important results of the comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/69/968), therefore, is its effort to focus of the attention of the coming leadership of the Organization on the need to deal with the diffuse efforts among the various United Nations departments, agencies and programmes. In that regard, the Egyptian delegation affirms that the situation requires an effective, genuine change in the approach of the Organization and its organs in dealing with international crises and conflicts. Such a change should involve the dedication of political, human and financial resources to address the root causes of conflicts.

We feel that the most important aspect of resolution 70/262 is its reference to partnerships with regional organizations and the need for effective frameworks for the promotion of international and regional ownership of peacebuilding efforts. Partnerships with the African Union and African subregional organizations take on special importance in terms of enabling a better and more effective United Nations response to the region's conflicts and emerging issues, such as terrorism, piracy and illegal immigration, the prevention of which requires comprehensive strategies using a variety of tools.

The basic guarantee for the success of the United Nations and regional peacebuilding efforts is their anchoring in national and objective priorities. That has become known, in the literature on peacebuilding, as the principle of national leadership and ownership. The commitment to the implementation of that principle is the linchpin of sustaining peace. We therefore feel that it is important to focus United Nations and regional efforts on investing in and contributing to programmes that build national capacity, thereby ensuring that the efforts concerned are more successful and effective.

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Such a transformation in the nature of international efforts requires ongoing, predictable and sustainable sources of financing. In that regard, Egypt considers it important to enable the Peacebuilding Fund to continue its constructive role in the financing of programmes and initiatives based on the national priorities of the receiving State. Egypt therefore calls for the establishment of mechanisms to provide predictable and sustainable financing. Such financing would promote the capacity of the Fund to bridge the financing gap that usually accompanies the lessening of donor State interest, once hostilities have come to an end and there has been a decrease in violence.

I would also like to indicate that resolution 70/262 contains provisions and recommendations aimed at providing an impetus to and promoting the Peacebuilding Commission as a consultative organ. The unique membership enjoyed by the Commission distinguishes it from all other United Nations intergovernmental organs, as it allows the Commission to bridge peacebuilding efforts, which also contributes to the development and promotion of human rights. Egypt feels that the necessary political will on the part of Member States would make it an effective instrument for mobilizing political interest in States that have overcome crisis situations and for generating genuine will to build the institutions of those States and continue on the path towards sustainable socioeconomic development. The report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session (A/70/714) provides proof of the Commission's potential and its growing interest in such vital causes as the promotion of the role of women in peacebuilding efforts, in addition to the growing focus on regional peacebuilding measures and partnerships with the interregional groupings.

We should also view the consensus achieved on the resolutions adopted today by the General Assembly and the Security Council in the light of the more comprehensive framework of efforts to reform and develop the United Nations peacebuilding and security architecture. The review of the peacebuilding architecture and the review on progress made in implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, provide two complementary frameworks to view the peacebuilding architecture. In that regard, the delegation of Egypt affirms the need for a united political message affirming that sustaining peace is the ultimate objective of the work of the Organization, and that it is time to reconsider and objectively evaluate the capacity and structure needed to achieve that objective.

Egypt looks forward to cooperating with Member States in the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union during the coming months to translate the provisions of resolution 70/262 into action without delay, and to develop the policies and structures and pinpoint the resources that would promote the Organization's efforts to sustain peace.

Egypt, as a current member of the Security Council, accords the utmost importance and care to peacebuilding — especially in the context of the partnership with the African Union. We intend to submit a developed vision in that regard that embraces a more comprehensive perspective during the open debate of the Security Council to be held on 24 May on cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations.

Mr. Ciss (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank Angola and Australia for their leadership during the second stage of the review of the peacebuilding architecture, during which they facilitated the intergovernmental consultations that led to today's adoption of resolution 70/262 by the General Assembly and resolution 2282 (2016) by the Security Council.

My delegation is pleased that today's review coincides with the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the review of all United Nations peacekeeping operations and the review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2122 (2013), on women and peace and security. We dare hope that our Organization will take full advantage of the unique opportunity offered by this series of closely related review processes with a view to redirecting our actions and strategies so as to build an integrated, strategic and coherent peacebuilding approach, bearing in mind that security, development and human rights are closely linked and mutually reinforcing. Clearly, the resolutions adopted this morning illustrate our determination to make a break by developing an approach to peacebuilding that is more consistent and better able to establish a genuine foundation for a lasting peace.

With regard to the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session (A/70/714), my delegation welcomes the continued collaboration between the Commission and regional and subregional actors concerning the general guidelines and activities to be carried out at the country level. Indeed, during several discussions held by the Commission on specific countries, the role of neighbouring countries and regional and subregional organizations was described as essential to the success of the political process and to the prevention of any risk of instability.

In that regard, it is important to strengthen cooperation among regional partners. It is against that backdrop that we reiterate our request for the establishment of an institutional partnership among the Commission, the African Union and African subregional organizations.

The repeated cycles of violence in Africa, despite the considerable efforts of regional actors and the United Nations, are the result of a lack of critical analysis of the underlying causes and triggers of conflicts on the continent. As such, it is necessary to adopt more effective conflict-prevention strategies that take into due account the needs in terms of economic and social developments in all peacebuilding activities. As pointed out in the report, that necessarily requires cooperation with regional actors such as the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa in order to respond more coherently to urgent peacebuilding needs.

With regard to the Commission's activities under the Guinea-Bissau country-specific configuration, we welcome the active role it has played in promoting coherent regional support for the efforts undertaken by the Guinea-Bissau authorities in accordance with the most pressing national priorities. Those priorities were set out by the Government of Guinea-Bissau in March 2015 at Brussels in the context of the international donors conference. They include a 10-year national development strategy that focuses on improving governance and access to basic services, the elimination of poverty and the promotion of economic prospects. Senegal, a long-standing strategic partner of Guinea-Bissau, did not fail to contribute to the success of that event, where pledges totaled €1.2 billion. However, the political tensions that arose in August slowed the efforts of Guinea-Bissau's partners. Through the mediation efforts of the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, as well as the efforts of the international community, we have hope that the situation in that friendly country will improve further.

With regard to the Republic of Guinea, we welcome the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa in support of the electoral process and post-Ebola recovery. With regard to the political process in the country, Senegal welcomes the successful presidential elections held last October, which resulted in the re-election of President Alpha Condé.

On the issue of greater consistency in our efforts, we need more dynamic interaction among the Peacebuilding Commission and the principal organs of the United Nations and its funds and programmes, as well as international, regional and local partners. Only in that way will we manage to strengthen the necessary synergies and ensure that our initiatives have greater impact on the ground. On that point, my delegation would like to emphasize in particular the importance of boosting interaction between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. We believe that the Council should improve the Commission's ability to play its role as a consultative body through more frequent use of its services, in particular in connection with providing advice, awareness-raising and resource-mobilization. Moreover, such a comprehensive approach should also be used when considering questions relating to peacebuilding through the development of an integrated strategy in several areas, including security, development and human rights, as well as gender equality and the rule of law.

There should be greater cooperation between the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Commission, as called for at its 2015 annual session, during which participants strongly warned against the dangers of a fragmented financing system that lacked the necessary resources. As such, to fill the gaps it will be necessary to strengthen partnerships with international financial institutions, not only for peacebuilding projects but also for the development of future development strategies.

In addition, for peace to be lasting the restoration of security must go hand in hand with economic development. Lessons learned from the peacebuilding process, in particular in Africa, give us the full measure of that dimension. Countries undergoing the peacebuilding process need resources to finance wealth- and job-creation projects for young people and women, who play a key role in economic and social recovery efforts. However, according to the report of the Advisory Group of Experts, the Peacebuilding Fund is just not sufficient to produce the expected impact on its own, and it is far from having attained its goal of serving as the catalyst for a stream of greater resources from other sources.

My delegation also strongly supports the recommendation of the Advisory Group of Experts to invite the General Assembly to consider the possibility of adopting measures to ensure that core funding corresponding to $100 million, or about a symbolic 1 per cent of the value of all United Nations peacekeeping operations budgets, is allocated to peacebuilding annually from assessed contributions under the budget of the Organization.

Mr. González de Linares Palou (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I welcome the convening of this meeting to discuss the most recent reports on the current peacebuilding architecture of the United Nations. This meeting comes at a key moment, as it coincides with the adoption of resolution 70/262, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

Spain fully aligns itself with the statement made by the delegation of the European Union (see A/70/PV.93), but would like to make several remarks in our national capacity.

We believe that the reasons that led to the establishment of the peacebuilding architecture are more valid today than ever. On certain occasions — on too many occasions — countries that recently experienced conflict have slid back into instability and violence. Peacebuilding is a long-term undertaking that requires sustained effort throughout the entire cycle of conflict. Despite enabling us to maintain our focus on situations and needs that might otherwise be neglected, we have not made sufficient use of those tools, which explains their failure to reach their full potential. Overcoming those limits is the purpose of the current review.

We welcome the report (A/70/714) describing the most salient activities carried out by the Peacebuilding Commission during 2015. We also welcome the report (A/70/715) of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund, which warns us of the paradox of the disconnection between ambitions and results, on the one hand, and resources, on the other. The new review of the peacebuilding architecture being completed now has allowed for the identification of certain key elements to guide strategies and activities in support of peacebuilding processes with a view to improving their effectiveness, on the basis of experience and lessons learned in a variety of countries. It seems to us that this practical and operational approach is particularly correct.

We would urge that synergies and complementarities between this review and those covering peace operations and women and peace and security be maximized. We must take advantage of the opportunity provided by the three reviews to be sure that they all play a greater role in fostering the necessary political commitment among member countries, promoting consistency, both within and beyond the United Nations system, and mobilizing resources. We also have to take into account the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda was designed to be a transformative vision for the entire international community. For the first time, an international development agenda includes a goal, in this case Goal 16, that addresses the challenges of politics, peace, security, governance and justice — because none of the least-developed countries that have been affected by conflict has achieved a single Millennium Development Goal. Without development and poverty eradication, there is no sustainable peace.

In the Security Council's open debate on peacebuilding on 23 February (see S/PV.7629), Spain emphasized that what we need now is a changed mindset in the organizational culture of the United Nations and greater coherence in the system, capable of strengthening a country's sense of national ownership on the ground as well as its capacity for development. My delegation also stressed the importance of improving prevention and mediation and strengthening cooperation with regional and subregional actors.

In Spain's view, a key element to achieving a peaceful society is working on conflict prevention in its early stages. Moments of crisis and outbreaks of violence are often symptoms of long-term tensions. As the European Union has pointed out, in many cases sustaining peace equals conflict prevention. The United Nations system should make it a priority to help countries establish effective and inclusive mechanisms and institutions that will enable them to address the underlying socioeconomic and political causes, as well as the triggers of violent conflict. Such mechanisms should cover issues related to strengthening the rule of law, eradicating poverty, fostering social development and respect for democracy, and promoting and protecting human rights. Peace is not just an end in itself; it also brings prosperity.

Preventive diplomacy is an important tool in achieving sustainable peace, and we should view collaboration with other international organizations in that manner, particularly those in Africa, not just in order to improve coherence and coordination between our strategies and actions, but also to take better advantage of their understanding of the local context. In order to do that, the Security Council should recapture the spirit of Chapters VI and VII of the Charter of the United Nations. For such preventive efforts we should also refine our early-warning and conflict-analysis systems, together with those already in existence, so as to enable us to share information, take advantage of and transfer capabilities, and replicate good experiences for anticipating conflicts. The good offices of the Secretary-General and his responsibility, in accordance with his mandate, to draw the Council's attention to situations that threaten international peace and security, are other important tools in that regard.

Secondly, it is essential to emphasize the prominent role that women should play at every stage of peacebuilding. We were pleased to see that the review (A/69/968) recognizes the importance of strengthening the gender aspect and women's participation in peace processes from their early stages. In that regard, Spain, as co-Chair with the United Kingdom, has been promoting the creation of an informal Security Council group on women and peace and security, with the aim of addressing that issue comprehensively, studying prevention and recovery, as well as protection and participation.

Regarding the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as an advisory and evaluative body to both the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Commission can play a crucial unifying role in bridging the gaps and compartments that divide security, development and human rights commitments. The proposed reforms of the Commission's working methods and functions should strengthen its role as a tool useful to the Council in dealing with situations that no longer qualify as crises but are still fragile and in need of specific and sustained attention, or when the Council has to address problems with implementing missions' peacebuilding mandates or with drawing down and terminating missions. For that, we could also increase participation by the Chairs of the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific configurations in Security Council consultations.

Similarly, the United Nations should integrate the work of the Security Council, the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council at Headquarters in order to enable them to lead more effectively on the ground. In the field, we can enhance the role of the country teams and their resident coordinators, who should be trained in managing and planning for building and sustaining peace. The fact that the Commission has no presence on the ground makes that even more essential. I would also like to emphasize the importance of promoting and concretizing the partnerships between the United Nations, national Governments and other stakeholders, including civil-society organizations, that are supposed to play a key role in peacebuilding.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Spain, as a major donor to the Peacebuilding Fund and a member of the Commission's Organizational Committee, to continuing to work with as many countries as possible in order to maximize the contribution of the United Nations system generally, and the Peacebuilding Commission in particular, to peacebuilding processes — something that seems to be in such short supply — on the basis of resolution 70/262, whose adoption we welcomed today. In that regard, Spain intends to resume its voluntary contributions to the Fund with the intention of establishing itself as one of the top 10 donors, proof of our commitment to the United Nations peacebuilding system.

Mr. Lal (India): This year's annual discussion of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Peacebuilding Fund is being held a decade after their establishment as part of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in the wake of the landmark 2005 World Summit. It has also given us an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture's impact in terms of the role that it was expected to perform, particularly its role in facilitating countries' successful transition in post-conflict situations and in contributing to the avoidance of any relapse into conflict. We are also meeting only months after the landmark adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), designed to be a guide in the collective global effort to build peaceful, secure and prosperous societies. The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals also highlight the importance of the development dimension and the cross-cutting nature of the issues involved in building and maintaining peace.

We welcome the adoption today of comprehensive resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture by both the General Assembly and the Security Council (resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016), respectively), and we appreciate the work that went into the preparation of the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (see A/69/968) for that major exercise. The resolution clearly outlines the complexity of the issues involved in sustaining peace. We especially welcome the emphasis given to the importance of sustainable development, economic growth and increased funding for promoting peacebuilding efforts.

The Peacebuilding Commission, the Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office were designed to address the significant gaps identified in existing strategies for conflict prevention over the short and the longer term. The peacebuilding architecture was intended to provide international support for mobilizing financial and technical resources, in particular for assisting peacebuilding efforts. The Commission introduced a much-needed focus on the development dimension into the discourse on how to achieve lasting peace and security. However, the record of the Peacebuilding Commission's effectiveness during its 10-year existence has been mixed at best. It has succeeded in highlighting the crucial importance of peacebuilding when conflicts end and peacekeeping missions are drawn down, and in providing some assistance in specific situations relating to improving capacities for institution-building, electoral reforms and so forth. The Ebola outbreak also provided a new context for the PBC's efforts. But the impact of its peacebuilding efforts is still limited, primarily because of its very inadequate funding and less-than-optimum coordination with other United Nations bodies, including the Security Council. It is quite clear that those challenges can be overcome only if there is genuine political will among those who are able to contribute in that regard.

The changing nature of conflicts is affecting the complexity of peacebuilding, especially in its tasks of avoiding relapses into conflict and building sustaining peace. While it is increasingly clear that instability in one part of the world can affect security and economic prospects even in far distant places, the focus on peacebuilding continues to be limited. That must be remedied. In a globalized world, peoples' destinies are interlinked, and conflicts present common challenges. Their solutions also require collective responses. The funds available for peacebuilding continue to be a fraction of what is available for peacekeeping activities and are even declining. Only more predictable and sustainable financing will help the Peacebuilding Commission to be more effective.

While we recognize the relevance of greater coherence and coordination within the United Nations system and beyond, the subject should be carefully examined, in view of the various responsibilities, tasks and priorities involved. If peacebuilding efforts are to be sustainable, they must be aligned with national priorities. The role of women and young people in peacebuilding, including in decision-making, is important. Skills development and job creation are crucial to maintaining peace and preventing relapses into conflict. We also recognize the importance of cooperation with regional organizations in peacebuilding efforts.

With its unique membership and interaction with other organs, including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, the Peacebuilding Commission can play an important role in sustaining peacebuilding over the longer term. As a member of the Commission since its inception, India stands ready to help strengthen the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

Mr. Dalo (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Argentine delegation is taking the floor in this debate to express its approbation of today's joint adoption by the Security Council and the General Assembly of substantively the same resolution on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (resolutions 2282 (2016) and 70/262, respectively). We know that the work on the text has been painstaking and reflects a balance among the various positions of individual countries and groups in the negotiations, while laying a foundation for further progress on the issue in future. My country would like to reiterate its thanks to the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of Peacebuilding Architecture, chaired by Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, for its efforts to identify and describe peacebuilding's challenges, which to a large degree are addressed in the resolution. We would also like to thank the facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia and their teams, for their efforts.

Argentina supports the concept of "sustaining peace" as defined in the resolution, understood as a continuous process involving the peacebuilding system not only in the post-conflict stage but also before, during and after conflicts, based on a comprehensive approach that takes into account the importance of addressing the root causes of such conflicts by, among other things, strengthening the rule of law, promoting sustained and sustainable economic growth, eradicating poverty, fostering social development and promoting democracy and respect for human rights. The concept of "sustaining peace" is thereby linked to the Organization's new and fundamental emphasis on prevention, an element that links the peacebuilding review to the other two recent peace and security reviews carried out in parallel, namely, those on peacekeeping operations and on women and peace and security.

Another point that we would like to emphasize about today's resolution is its insistence on the need for coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations, avoiding isolated actions in silos and working towards systemic coherence in peacebuilding strategies, in an approach that ensures inclusive national ownership with the participation of all relevant national stakeholders, particularly civil society, and that takes into account the importance of women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

One aspect of the resolution where we would have preferred to see a firmer commitment on the part of Member States is the financing of peacebuilding activities. In that regard, we stress how important it is to be able to rely on predictable and sustainable funding for such activities, and we reiterate our support for the recommendation of the Advisory Group of Experts that about $100 million should be allocated annually to the Peacebuilding Fund from the contributions to the Organization's budget. That is the minimum financial commitment that we should be willing to offer, and even that is insufficient considering the magnitude of peacebuilding's tasks. We need only compare the insignificance of that contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding to the hundreds of billions of dollars that the world spends on military expenditures.

Argentina welcomes the adoption of today's resolution and encourages Member States to continue to work to improve the peacebuilding architecture in anticipation of the upcoming high-level meeting on the subject to be held during the seventy-second session of the Assembly, at which it will analyse the efforts and the opportunities to strengthen our work on sustainable security. We hope that this path will continue helping us to give the Organization increasingly effective tools for promoting the peace and development of our peoples.

Mr. Shingiro (Burundi) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the President for convening this important joint debate on the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/70/714) and the Secretary-General's report on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/70/715). I would also like to thank my colleague Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden and outgoing Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), for his detailed and edifying briefing this morning (see A/70/PV.93). I commend him once again for the exceptional professionalism and skill that he showed during his stewardship of the Commission. And while I have had the opportunity to do so on other occasions, I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the Permanent Representative of Kenya, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, on his new responsibilities and wish him resounding success for his tenure. I would also like to commend the outstanding work of the co-facilitators, the Ambassadors of Angola and Australia, in conducting the negotiations leading up to this morning's adoption of resolution 70/262, on the review of the peacebuilding architecture.

Without going into the details of the report, I would like to briefly echo some of its salient elements. First, regarding the principle of national ownership, at the risk of repeating myself, I would like to reiterate how important it is to ensure national ownership of the peacebuilding process by the countries benefiting from it and the ongoing commitment of the countries that receive peacebuilding support. Above all, we should ensure that there is consultation and close cooperation between international partners and national Governments, along with coordination of the efforts of those international partners, particularly in the area of resource mobilization. We should remember that identifying priority areas is the responsibility of national and local authorities and that the Commission's role should be limited to one of support.

Still with regard to national ownership, my delegation believes that ownership on a single level is not enough but must extend beyond that to the local, regional and continental levels, the three levels of ownership that are critical to implementing a sustainable peace process. Local, national, regional and continental ownership not only strengthens the legitimacy of the programmes' execution but also helps to ensure the sustainability of national capacity as a whole once a peacekeeping operation has ended.

Secondly, with regard to the regional aspects of peacebuilding, I would like to emphasize the importance of the regional dimension. As the Assembly is aware, the Commission is particularly well placed to promote greater harmony between the subregional, regional, continental and international aspects of a post-conflict response. The Commission's experience in Burundi has shown that improved regional and subregional coherence is a key supporting factor for peacebuilding efforts.

Integrating regional and subregional perspectives into the work of the Commission continues to be crucial. In fact, many countries may prefer to receive help and advice from peer nations in their own region, and regional organizations may be better placed to intervene at timely moments and help with decision-making in arriving at sustainable solutions to very sensitive issues. We welcome the fact that during the period covered by the report, the Commission stressed the importance of further strengthening regional coherence, which is vital in helping countries to maintain peace and avoid relapses into conflict. While at times we have witnessed differences in views of the political situation in Burundi between our region, the African Union and New York, we nonetheless commend this dynamic approach to the regional dimension, which must be strengthened, maintained and above all sustained.

Thirdly, regarding cooperation between the Commission, the General Assembly and the Security Council, my delegation believes that cooperation between the Commission and the three main organs of the United Nations remains crucial and should be further strengthened. The informal dialogues organized jointly by the President of the Security Council and the Chair of the Commission, the periodic assessment meetings at the expert level and the formal briefings to the Council on the countries on its agenda and on thematic issues have been extremely useful.

In the interests of strengthening relations between the Commission and the Security Council, in future the Council should consider inviting the Chairs of country-specific configurations to Council briefings on matters concerning countries on the Commission's agenda. We believe that their contributions, in addition to the Secretariat's briefings, would be very useful to Member States in their stance on the issues. There can be no doubt whatever that informal bilateral interactions with the Security Council would help the PBC to maximize and capitalize on its advisory role and to come up with and share ideas that could well be reflected in Security Council resolutions.

Fourthly, with regard to recognition of the vital issue of gender equality in cooperative activities with countries, my delegation believes that women's participation in political life in the post-conflict period and the gender-specific aspects of peacebuilding deserve sustained focus and unwavering commitment. In order to get off to a good start, women should be able to participate in peace negotiations and thereby be part of the post-conflict transition process. We support and welcome the debate that began last year on formulating a strategy that takes into account the importance of ensuring parity in cooperative activities with countries on the PBC's agenda. Among other things, such a strategy would enable the Commission to strengthen and concretize its commitments to gender equality, including those made in its declaration on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding, adopted in 2013, and thereby to naturally ensure greater structural integration of the gender equality issue into its work.

Fifthly, regarding the fight against Ebola, we welcome the fact that the Commission has worked to conduct an information campaign in New York on the potential long-term effects of the Ebola crisis on peace, stability, social cohesion and economic well-being in the affected countries. The resolute commitment of Member States to collective action from the beginning of the epidemic showed that the Commission is capable of making use of its political assets. In short, we can say that the Commission's involvement in the fight against Ebola as soon as it first appeared represents a shared success and a good experience that in future will enable us to deal effectively with similar cases that might arise anywhere in the world.

Sixthly, concerning the subject of new cross-cutting issues, my delegation would like to emphasize the active role that young people can and do play in their countries. Very often, and this is certainly the case in Burundi, unemployed young people are likely to be manipulated and exploited by politicians for purely political ends. Such underemployed young people, often left to their own devices, resort to indiscriminate violence under internal and external pressures aimed at destabilizing fragile countries that have barely emerged from conflict. We should do everything possible to ensure that young people can find alternatives to violence. That can be done only by supporting the private sector in creating jobs that will significantly reduce unemployment in the countries concerned. To that end, we should encourage the establishment of public-private partnerships through which the business world can support efforts to enable countries emerging from conflict to launch social and economic reconstruction that is not vulnerable to the political tensions that result in, for example, the exploitation of natural resources, a lack of job creation, land disputes and attempts at regime change by external actors.

Turning to the Peacebuilding Fund, it is extremely regrettable to learn that it has been underfinanced for two years in a row. That resource deficit has a negative effect on the Commission's projects and programmes for its recipients. The report's recommendations concerning the need for sufficient and predictable funding deserve particular attention from Member States, particularly donor States.

I would like to conclude by commending the work of the Peacebuilding Support Office under the able leadership of Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco and his team, to whom we once again reiterate our full support.

Mr. Lauber (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Switzerland welcomes today's unanimous adoption of resolution 70/262, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Today's adoption highlights our collective commitment to a stronger and more comprehensive vision of peacebuilding. Over the past decade, substantive progress has been made in peacebuilding, with regard to both the concept itself and the related institutions and activities. Among the many important achievements of the resolution, my delegation would like to highlight five.

First, we welcome the notion of "sustaining peace", meaning preserving peace over time, and thereby the inclusion of a more holistic perspective of peacebuilding, which includes efforts aimed at conflict prevention. This reflects one of the key recommendations of the review and clearly strengthens the understanding that peacebuilding is relevant before, during and after armed conflicts. Switzerland remains convinced that the peacebuilding architecture can and should contribute to preventing relapses into armed conflict, and we fully support the recognition of this aspect in today's resolution.

Secondly, the resolution renews and fosters our collective commitment to supporting and further strengthening coordination, coherence and cooperation within the United Nations and regional and international actors, and acknowledges the role of civil society. While this is not a new endeavour, the resolution provides a solid foundation for helping to ensure this key condition for the success of preventive measures and peacebuilding.

Thirdly, the resolution highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach to transitional justice in peacebuilding by recognizing that peace, poverty reduction and the promotion of good governance may be achieved only with justice and the rule of law.

Fourthly, Switzerland welcomes the call for more predictable financing of peacebuilding activities. We look forward to studying the forthcoming recommendations by the Secretary-General with a view to increasing the overall predictability and availability of funding for peacebuilding.

Fifthly, my delegation is convinced of the particular merit of the Peacebuilding Commission and its country configurations to address specific situations. We look forward to continuing our shared reflection on the diversification of working methods and remain convinced that a strong peacebuilding architecture should remain the backbone of the United Nations peacebuilding efforts.

While the resolution adopted today represents a solid framework and vision for the future of peacebuilding, our collective efforts in building peace will need to be pursued with vigour and unity of effort. Switzerland is pleased to note today's strong commitment of the General Assembly to further strengthen the peacebuilding architecture, and we very much remain committed to contributing in future to that end.

Mr. Heen (Nigeria): On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this important joint debate on the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) (A/70/714) and the Secretary-General's report on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) (A/70/715). I would also like to thank Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, Chair of the PBC, for his statement, which provided fresh perspectives on the activities of the Commission. I would also like to thank Ambassador Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden and former Chair of the PBC, for his able and committed leadership during his tenure. My delegation would further like to express profound appreciation to the Chairs of the various country-specific configurations and Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-

General for Peacebuilding Support, for their untiring efforts in channelling assistance to countries emerging from conflict.

My delegation welcomes the concurrent adoption of resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, and in this regard, commends the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia for effectively co-facilitating the intergovernmental process that culminated in the adoption of these resolutions.

Nigeria associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Sierra Leone on behalf of the PBC African caucus, and by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/70/PV.93). Nonetheless, I would like to underscore a few points of interest.

While the reports before us provide a comprehensive overview of the substantive activities of the PBC and the PBF, it is vital to note that developments during the reporting period in some countries on the PBC agenda remain a cause for concern. The situation in these countries highlights the fact that peacebuilding is not a linear, progressive process, but a multidimensional approach, encompassing initiatives that must proactively engender sustainable peace. In this context, my delegation would like to reiterate the following points.

First, when Nigeria convened an open debate on preventive diplomacy at the Security Council some years ago (see S/PV.6360), we were motivated by the concern that the nature of conflict was outpacing our collective ability to respond effectively to it. Ten years after the establishment of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, post-conflict peacebuilding remains a fragile undertaking, with mixed results.

While peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict is indeed necessary, it cannot be an effective long-term strategy or solution. We believe that early intervention before simmering crises erupt into conflict is a critical peacebuilding strategy that must be embraced. We also believe that the global foresight of drawing up structural peacebuilding initiatives, encouragement in favour of institution-building, good governance, respect for democratic institutions, human rights, delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as the socioeconomic empowerment of fledging States and regions, are essential prerequisites for a peacebuilding strategy to be effective. That is why we support the simultaneous adoption of the resolution on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, which emphasizes the centrality of the preventive approach to peacebuilding.

Secondly, peacebuilding is essentially about enhancing the capacity of affected countries and regions to undertake the challenges of peacebuilding on their own. This is in line with the principle of national ownership, which is fundamental to discussions on peacebuilding. The PBC must therefore ensure that its engagement with the countries on the agenda results in strengthening the capacity of these countries to take up the tasks of peacebuilding on their own. In addition, the principle of inclusivity, which seeks to enhance women's empowerment and participation and the role of young people in fragile societies, must be given primacy in the peacebuilding process. We believe that the resolution adopted today will facilitate the achievement of these goals.

Furthermore, lessons from the field have also shown that due to the cross-cutting nature of the issues, especially the interconnectedness and commonality of challenges and opportunities within regions, the PBC must adopt a regional approach by strengthening collaboration with relevant regional organizations and entities, such as, inter alia, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union, as a pragmatic engagement tool for dealing with crises, as was seen in the recent fight against the Ebola virus disease in West Africa.

Nigeria therefore emphasizes the need for increased collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations in the formulation and implementation of post-conflict peacebuilding activities. That is the case because only actors that understand the root causes of conflicts can undertake appropriate efforts to avert any relapse into conflict. We therefore strongly advocate that effective peace initiatives should be nationally owned and driven, regionally anchored and internationally supported.

Thirdly, the commitment of individual and collective activities of the PBC must go beyond rhetoric and be supportive and results-oriented, with special focus placed on concrete contributions. It should be reflected in financial contributions, provision for material or technical contributions or the sharing of experiences. While developing countries may not be able to provide significant financial contributions, they may have a tremendous wealth of experience to share. In this regard, the overarching aim of the PBC should be to reflect on how best to systematically utilize all the accumulated lessons learned in the area of peacebuilding in the countries on their agenda.

Fourthly, the PBC should intensify its efforts to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including the principal organs of the United Nations. In this regard, my delegation further welcomes the adoption of the resolution on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, which highlights the importance of strengthening the PBC's advisory role with respect to the Security Council as well as in advancing a coherent approach to multidimensional peacebuilding mandates. In addition, forging coherence and complementarity of action and improving coordination of actors would avoid overlapping of actions or duplication of efforts. It would further ensure greater clarity of purpose, responsibility and accountability.

There can be no meaningful peacebuilding without funding, as funding is key to achieving and implementing the critical peacebuilding mandate. That is why we attach great importance to the work of the Peacebuilding Fund. We believe that the commitment of Member States should be reflected in their willingness to make financial contributions, share their experiences and provide technical support. My delegation commends the steps taken by the Peacebuilding Support Office to continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Peacebuilding Fund.

The 2015 PBF high-level stakeholders meeting was no doubt a great success. However, this laudable effort must be complemented by exploring other options for longer-term and predictable financing. We commend Member States and other donors for their invaluable contributions. We also urge other donors, especially in the private sector, to make sure their contributions engender the sustenance of global peace and security.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Nigeria's commitment to peacebuilding activities. It is our fervent hope that this debate will provide new insights and impetus for enhancing post-conflict peacebuilding and conflict-prevention activities, as we look forward to the concrete implementation of the resolution on the United Nations peacebuilding architecture adopted today.

Mr. Buffin (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): Belgium thanks the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia for conducting negotiations that led us to adopt the comprehensive and consensual resolution 70/262, on the United Nations peace and security architecture. We also thank the Chairs of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the report on the activities of the Commission (A/70/714) and the Secretary-General for his report on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/70/715).

Belgium fully supports the statement made by the observer of the European Union (see A/70/PV.93). In our national capacity, we wish to emphasize the following.

Priority should be given to conflict prevention. The fact that the resolution focuses on the sustainability of peace, rather than preventing relapse in post-conflict countries, as was the case in the past, is a step forward that we should welcome. If peacebuilding processes are to succeed, it is essential that they be subject to inclusive national ownership. In other words, they should involve both the Government and the opposition as well as civil society, including women's and youth organizations. The Secretary-General has on many occasions stressed that massive and repeated violations of human rights are the warning signs of crisis and conflict. The peacebuilding process must therefore systematically incorporate respect and promotion of human rights.

Peacebuilding is above all a political process in which the political will of the Government in question plays a decisive role, and international partners play a supporting role. The concept of "compact" detailing the common objectives of the country and its international partners illustrates this relationship. The Peacebuilding Commission can therefore play an important role in transition situations, whether they be political transitions — which are often at-risk periods — or transitions following the scheduled departure of a peacekeeping operation.

The report of the Peacebuilding Commission rightly emphasizes the importance of the consolidation of political, administrative and judicial institutions in the countries concerned. Particular importance should also be given to demobilization, disarmament and reintegration and to security-sector reform, on the one hand, and to economic governance, the rebuilding of tax administrations, the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows and a rational use of natural resources for the benefit of the entire population, on the other hand.

Belgium has decided to focus its development assistance on the least developed countries and countries in fragile situations. We are part of the country-specific configurations for the Central African Republic, Burundi and, more recently, Guinea, which has otherwise become a bilateral cooperation partner of my country. Work undertaken in the framework of the PBC's country-specific configurations ensures close contact with the reality on the ground and the characteristics of each country on the agenda. It is a format that also allows for the participation of various development partners. This tailored approach is worth retaining, even if improvements could be made to the procedures and composition of the configurations. The contribution of country configurations to the Security Council's thinking when it takes up issues relevant to the PBC needs to become more systematic.

The Peacebuilding Fund has made it possible to quickly finance urgent action in support of political efforts, and its value added is widely recognized. However, Belgium calls for peacebuilding and the management of fragile situations becoming an essential and integral part of cooperation programmes with international partners in countries in fragile situations, whether these partners be the States Members of the United Nations working together, the World Bank, regional banks, or regional and bilateral donors.

Indeed, the efforts aimed at peacebuilding go well beyond the United Nations, and synergies must be organized if we are to effectively reach our goals. As an example, I would mention the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, whose fifth meeting was recently held in Stockholm, and the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and the cooperation initiative among fragile countries of the Group of Seven Plus.

Belgium welcomes the adoption of the resolution on the peace and security architecture and assures the international community of its full implementation.

Mr. Morales López (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden and outgoing Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and acknowledge him for his work. Similarly, I commend the efforts of Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya and current Chair of the Commission. We also welcome the submission of the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/70/714) and the report of the Peacebuilding Fund (A/70/715) and we reaffirm our support and commitment as members of the Commission.

The year 2015 was a year of particular importance for the future of peacebuilding and the Peacebuilding Commission, especially considering the five-year review of the peacebuilding architecture and today's adoption of resolution 70/262. I welcome the resolution we adopted simultaneously in the General Assembly and the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)) and recognize the work done during the negotiations by the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia. This adoption is an important step towards strengthening the peacebuilding work of the United Nations work and, in particular, of the Commission. The resolution strengthens anew the path towards a unified and consistent vision of peacebuilding in which all stages of conflict require attention. In this approach, prevention is crucial to avoiding conflict and relapse and their human and economic costs, and that is why it should be a key task in the Commission's work.

With regard to the report of the Peacebuilding Commission and its work in 2015, the progress made in the diversification of the Commission's working methods was important, and we welcome it. Let me reiterate Colombia's readiness to work with the Chair of the Commission and the other members in order to improve these methods. Colombia believes that the Commission must become a valuable platform for all countries that seek its recommendations and support. In this regard, we welcome the idea of a more flexible Commission, which goes beyond the concept of configurations without losing its country-specific focus.

Colombia considers it essential to continue to address the needs for consistency among peacebuilding policies and activities. With the first annual session of the Commission held in 2014, representative progress was made in identifying areas where coordinated work can be achieved. In this regard, we wish to highlight the joint work of the Commission with the Peacebuilding Support Office, under the leadership of Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, and with the Peacebuilding Fund. The harmonization of their complementary roles and strategies with a view to increasing cooperation has generated visible progress in countries that have received support.

The Commission has proved to be an inclusive platform that brings together the countries concerned, regional partners, international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations. In this sense, the recent meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission, which focused on the regional dimension of peacebuilding, are activities that remind us of and reinforce the importance of the Commission's convening power.

We cannot forget that the peacebuilding efforts require the mobilization of predictable financial, technical and political support in the short, medium and long terms. The Commission is the most appropriate platform to help develop and implement national strategies for resource mobilization for peacebuilding and to advocate for their timely deployment. In this connection, the resolution welcomes the valuable work of the Peacebuilding Fund and reaffirms the idea that the Fund provides quick and flexible responses that serve as a catalyst to conflict-affected countries. To achieve sufficient funds we must ensure that the financing of the Fund is sustained and predictable.

In order to achieve voluntary contributions to the Fund and improve the predictability of funding, we welcome the Peacebuilding Fund donors conference, which will be held during the opening of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. Colombia, as a country that has been both a donor and has received resources from the Fund, hopes that there is substantial participation in the conference and that financing for the Fund increases.

Colombia also highlights the role that women play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding. We must continue to promote the integration of gender issues in the work of the Commission and the Fund. At this point, I wish to underscore the launching of the development of the gender strategy in the Peacebuilding Commission, which integrates the work on gender issues and moves women's empowerment forward on matters of peace, the economy and access to security and justice. This improves quality of life, strengthens society's confidence in the processes and fosters economic growth. Much remains to be done in these areas.

The nations that know how difficult it is to achieve peace know that the road ahead is not easy, but we firmly believe that achieving peace is possible. My country, Colombia, has set in motion processes and innovative policy actions in pursuit of sustainable peace, with the invaluable support of the international community and the United Nations. After 50 years of conflict, my country hopes to become one of the success stories in achieving peace and to support those who are on this arduous path.

Mrs. Pucarinho (Portugal): Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered this morning by the observer of the European Union (see A/70/PV.93). We would just like to add some additional remarks in our national capacity

I thank the President for convening this meeting this year, which is of particular importance given the review of the peacekeeping architecture. The review is widely seen as a key challenge and opportunity to renew the concept of peacebuilding and the way it is embodied in the United Nations system. I seize this opportunity to congratulate the co-facilitators of this lengthy and inclusive process, the Ambassadors of Angola, Mr. Gaspar Martins, and of Australia, Ms. Gillian Bird, for its successful conclusion leading to the adoption this morning of resolution 70/262, as well as the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture and its Chair for their comprehensive and very useful report (see A/69/968).

The concept of post-conflict peacebuilding, described as "action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict" (A/50/480, para. 33), was introduced in 1992 to the United Nations system and remains more than ever valued. Its potential remains to be better explored for the sake of sustainable peace and development. As the nature of conflicts changes and the new causes of conflicts and new threats to peace and security constantly emerge, the United Nations must be able to adapt and respond so as to remain relevant. In this context, a review of the peacebuilding architecture is critical, and the Advisory Group of Experts played an important role in this regard. I would like to point out that one of its key conclusions contained in the report is that the concept of peacebuilding cannot be confined to post-conflict situations; it requires a broad and holistic approach.

The recognition of the concept of "sustaining peace" is a move in the right direction towards promoting and enabling the necessary actions to foster peaceful outcomes at every stage of the conflict. Sustaining peace calls for a new form of political engagement, a new strategic engagement and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in which the role and participation of women and youth must be enhanced and promoted. It also calls for increased communication and close interlinkages between peacekeeping and political missions, which must be part of a whole. We all understand that the stakes and challenges we face are huge, and we trust that resolution 70/262 will set the stage for United Nations peacebuilding to better address conflict prevention and resolution and to sustain peace.

The annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) (A/70/714) adequately reflects the challenges that it currently faces. Procedures and negotiations in the PBC can be lengthy, sometimes leading to results that fall short of what is necessary to address. We must bear in mind that the PBC is and will be what Member States want it to be, and I believe we all understand that it is far from having fulfilled its potential, particularly as a vehicle for strategic prevention in conflicts.

In this regard, I would just underline the need for an enhanced use of the PBC's advisory role and of the interinstitutional dialogue and interaction between various United Nations bodies, in particular between the Security Council and the PBC. That would contribute to turning the PBC into what it was originally intended to be — a platform where relevant actors and stakeholders can be heard and effectively cooperate. Nonetheless, I would like to commend the PBC and its country-specific configurations' continuous work to ensure peace wherever it is at stake. Portugal is an active member of the Guinea-Bissau-specific configuration of the PBC, and I would like to stress the important role it has consistently played in supporting peace and stability in the country and in keeping Guinea-Bissau on the international agenda.

Concerning the Peacebuilding Fund, we strongly support a diversification of funding sources and a more predictable means of financing peacebuilding initiatives and activities. This can be done by, among other options, establishing public-private partnerships, promoting the involvement of financial institutions, development aid agencies and donations and, certainly, as we discussed last year, mobilizing domestic revenues in developing countries.

Mr. Espinoza Jara (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by expressing the appreciation of my delegation to Ambassador Olof Skoog, outgoing Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, for his leadership and commitment at the head of the Commission during 2015. His efforts to foster greater transparency, coordination and flexibility in the work of the Commission are highly valued and recognized by my delegation. We also welcome Ambassador Macharia Kamau and wish him success in his work as Chair of the Commission this year. We also welcome the simultaneous adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council of resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016), respectively, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. We take this opportunity to commend the leadership of the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia in their capacity as co-facilitators of the resolution.

The presentation and discussion of the reports considered today (A/70/714 and A/70/715) and the resolution allow us to reiterate the importance of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in supporting countries in sustaining peace and contributing to their development. The report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968) acknowledges this and identified the remaining challenges and put forth proposals to improve our work.

Among the challenges, we recognize the importance of redoubling our efforts to ensure that the Commission can make an effective contribution to intergovernmental and operational consistency within the United Nations, as well as increase the amount and predictability of funding for peacebuilding. This is a real challenge that we must resolve because, as the report of the Peacebuilding Commission indicates, global needs for peacekeeping are rising while donor commitments are decreasing. The issue of predictable funding is crucial because sustaining peace requires political, technical and financial resources in the short, medium and long term. We also recognize how important it is to involve and ensure the participation and coordination of regional and subregional organizations — be they of a political or economic nature — as well as neighbouring countries, in order to ensure a more consistent response to the peacebuilding needs of each country.

A cross-cutting and extremely important issue is the role of women in peacebuilding, as are our efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts. Therefore, we welcome the first phase of the development of the gender strategy completed in 2015 with a view to mainstreaming the gender dimension in the Commission's work. This first report concludes that the attention given to this matter has been uneven; there is a hierarchy of degrees of importance and the implementation of the agreed commitments has not been systematic. We stress the importance of stepping up our efforts and making progress in the second phase of the strategy starting with the results obtained in 2015.

In the same vein, we underscore that the Peacebuilding Fund has earmarked more than 15 per cent of its investments to support the empowerment of women. However, we must stress the need to further these efforts to reach the established target of using 15 per cent of all the funds administered by the United Nations for peacebuilding projects that promote gender equality, empower women and address their specific needs in these contexts.

On the other hand, as pointed out by the report, the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to peacebuilding requires greater coordination and communication among the various actors to overcome the existing fragmentation. We emphasize the importance of sustained and fluid communication with the Assembly and, in particular, the Security Council. We call for a recognition of this complementarity and a further exploration of the communication bodies. We must make better use of the knowledge and experience of the Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body.

We call for work to be continued along the lines of the resolution adopted today and the report of the Advisory Group of Experts. We hope this exercise will help strengthen and improve the existing institutions and dynamics of the peacebuilding processes, which is a responsibility that ultimately concerns us all.

Ms. Yánez Loza (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, my delegation would like to join previous speakers in thanking Ambassador Olof Skoog and his team for their work this year leading to the General Assembly's joint adoption, with the Security Council, of today's resolutions (70/262 and 2282 (2016), respectively).

Eleven years ago, in December 2005, in order to build bridges between the three components of peace and security, development and human rights, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted simultaneous resolutions (60/180 and 1645 (2005), respectively) providing for the creation of three entities — the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office. With that structure, they sought to strengthen the institutional and structural capacity of the Organization in order to support countries in transition from violent conflict to sustainable peace. In that regard, I would like to highlight the opinion of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture that the issue cannot be limited to those three entities and that peacebuilding is a challenge that involves action on the part of the entire United Nations system and its members.

I would also like to mention some factors identified in the report (see A/69/968) of the Advisory Group of Experts that have an impact on the United Nations institutional peacebuilding machinery, including a poor understanding of the nature of peacebuilding; the walls dividing the areas of responsibility of the principal intergovernmental United Nations organs responsible for helping to maintain sustainable peace — the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council; the fragmentation that exists throughout the United Nations and the Secretariat and between the latter and the rest of the Organization; and the growing number of conflicts, which have also become much more violent, in a complex and changing environment characterized by a combination of new political, economic, social and environmental aspects that are fraught with inequalities and that introduce new difficulties into efforts to resolve those conflicts.

Ecuador acknowledges the importance of today's adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council of a joint identical resolution on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. It is particularly important that the resolution puts forward a broader and more comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, with new elements that create a framework for revitalizing the organizational capacity for generating more efficient and effective responses to the challenges and complexity of the environment in which current conflicts develop. It also strengthens the Peacebuilding Commission's fundamental role as an advisory and liaison body between the three principal intergovernmental organs. Ecuador hopes that the Security Council will contribute to strengthening the Commission's advisory role from one of intention, by instituting a permanent practice of regularly asking for and making use of the Commission's advice when it reviews the mandates of its peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding missions.

We commend the work of the Advisory Group of Experts for its conclusions and a number of the ongoing recommendations in their report, entitled "Challenge of sustaining peace". Among its initiatives and recommendations, Ecuador particularly appreciates the gender aspect and its recognition of women's leadership and their fundamental role in the processes of building and consolidating peace, as well as that of young people; the emphasis on the need for close cooperation and linked efforts between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations; the affirmation that development is a vital goal in itself; and the recognition of the United Nations system's important contribution to peacebuilding, particularly through economic development and the eradication of poverty, among other things. Today's resolution is the result of extensive analysis and debate and a thorough review of the issues related to the peacebuilding architecture that require greater attention and strengthening.

Lastly, we share fully the commitment expressed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome to promoting and strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization through the implementation of its decisions and resolutions. We hope that today's resolution will represent a turning point, after 10 years of structural fragmentation and failed efforts, towards a crucial redefinition and reorientation of the work of the United Nations, with the goal of taking on the challenge of establishing a just and lasting peace that will preserve future generations from the scourge of war.

Ms. Carrión (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): The resolution adopted today (70/262) is of major importance for the entire United Nations system, since it not only strengthens but optimizes the role of the Peacebuilding Commission and its links to other United Nations entities. Uruguay is grateful to the delegations of Australia and Angola for their efforts as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental body working on the process, as well as to all the regional organizations and groups that played such a constructive part in it. We would also like to thank the Advisory Group of Experts, chaired by Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, for its report (see A/69/968), which has been a valuable tool in the negotiations and will continue to be a major reference point in the future.

The new view of peacebuilding introduced by today's resolution fosters new institutional synergies that will make it possible to address its current challenges holistically. Its approach will cease to be merely reactive but will evolve along with the various phases affecting vulnerable and fragile States. In that regard, Uruguay would like to pay tribute to the contribution that peacekeepers make to peacebuilding in its early stages and whose efforts are often so vital to societies beset by conflict.

We commend those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the work of the Peacebuilding Fund and urge that they continue their efforts in order to ensure greater predictability for the Fund and greater continuity and certainty for the Commission in its work. We would also like to emphasize the importance of national ownership in all peacebuilding processes, as well as of ensuring that such processes are always inclusive and take into account the role to be played by all national stakeholders, so as to ultimately make sure that peace dividends reach every sector of society and that the peace itself is more likely to be sustained. For various reasons, as mentioned in the report of the Advisory Group of Experts and reflected in part in today's resolution, there should be a particular focus on gender mainstreaming and a gender perspective in conflict resolution. Uruguay will continue to support and strengthen all activities conducive to empowering women, in particular in situations where their rights are especially vulnerable.

Lastly, we should emphasize the importance of the links between today's resolution and our achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are at the core of United Nations efforts. Together with its peacebuilding activities, they are already making a difference in the most fragile of our societies. We hope that the new momentum and constructive spirit displayed in both the resolution and the report of the Advisory Group of Experts will be reflected in all the United Nations bodies that so urgently need it.

Mr. Sandoval Cojulún (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Guatemala is grateful for the convening of today's meeting to adopt the resolution entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture" (70/262), and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegations of Angola and Australia for their leadership of the negotiations on this important resolution. We are pleased to note that both the main sponsors of the resolution and various delegations considered the report (see A/69/968) of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, chaired by Ambassador

Gert Rosenthal, as a basis for launching the negotiations on that important resolution.

In our view, the resolution is a constructive text, as it includes various significant aspects with regard to the structure of the peacebuilding architecture at the United Nations and the search for, maintenance of and building of peace. In particular, we are pleased to note that concepts on sustainable peace have been included describing the important role of civil society in achieving peace.

Moreover, we also consider it appropriate to highlight the inclusion of language on the role of the Peacebuilding Commission as a bridge between the principal organs and relevant United Nations bodies by means of information exchange on peacebuilding needs and priorities, in accordance with the competencies and responsibilities of those organs. In that context, peacebuilding is recognized as a political process inherently aimed at avoiding crises or the escalation, repetition or continuation of conflict. In addition, it embraces a wide range of programmes and policies on development and human rights.

As Member States we must ensure adequate, consistent and sustainable financing aimed at efficiently assisting countries in the area of peacekeeping and in preventing the escalation, continuation or resurgence of conflict. As States Members of the Organization, we must continue to work to ensure greater coherence in ensuring sustainable peace by coordinating the efforts of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with their respective mandates as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

However, we underscore the text's lack of reference to human rights and emphasize the importance of the Human Rights Council as the most important United Nations intergovernmental body tasked with promoting and protecting human rights. It should therefore be involved to a greater degree within the peacebuilding architecture.

Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): I should like once again to recall the enthusiasm that greeted the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2005 and its supporting institutions, namely, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund. More than 10 years later, the implementation and results have fallen short of the pledges made and the initial objectives when taking into account the fact that some countries that had already entered the peacebuilding stage have relapsed into conflict.

Today that same enthusiasm is re-emerging based on both a proper analysis and relevant recommendations put forth by Ambassador Rosenthal and the members of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. They submitted the report (see A/69/968) based on present revisions as well as General Assembly resolution 70/262, which was adopted this morning concurrently with Security Council resolution 2282 (2016). It was the result of strenuous negotiations of three months' duration and the participation of the Ambassadors of Angola and Australia. Above all, Cameroon wishes to commend those individuals for their excellent and prodigious efforts, which have led to a revival of hope in a new start and a more promising tomorrow with respect to peacebuilding.

I would like to underscore, without courting pessimism, the fact that, if we fail to fully draw upon the lessons of the past, we will risk making the same errors and experiencing the same disappointment later on in the review of the implementation of the resolution we have just adopted today. To avoid such a negative situation and bleak future, in our view four strategic factors demand close follow-up.

The first is holistic coordination. The Peacebuilding Commission must strive today more than yesterday, and tomorrow more than today. It must work most assiduously to ensure that all stakeholders work together towards a coherent and synergistic vision and guidelines, especially in terms of the time frame on planning and tasks during the various stages of peacebuilding.

Secondly, we must address the highly critical issue of resource mobilization, in terms of both sufficient quantity and quality. Is there a persistent need to highlight the fact that the Peacebuilding Fund, in its present state, despite the generous contributions of donors — whom we take the opportunity to commend — has not achieved its declared ambitions? That is due to scarce resources, unpredictability and other related constraints.

Thirdly, we must note the lack of ownership, or perhaps insufficient ownership, of the realities and specificities characterizing each aspect of peacebuilding. In that regard, we have too frequently sought a one-size-fits-all approach to time management.

Lastly, on capacity-building, we can never say often enough that peacebuilding, especially concerning countries just emerging from conflict, must focus particular attention on the issue of capacity-building. Countries mired in conflict, as well as institutions and individuals, have all been weakened. They now find themselves in a vegetative state of vulnerability, or perhaps even of non-existence. In that context, we must act, certainly in a diligent manner, but we must also act in a patient way while looking towards the long term in order to prevent the patient from rapidly relapsing.

In conclusion, coordination, resource mobilization, ownership and capacity-building seem to us to be the crucial areas that warrant great focus in the implementation phase, and later in the evaluation stage, of the new resolution on peacebuilding that we adopted this morning. Otherwise, as the saying goes, we can expect to turn a thousand times around the same centre.

Mr. Raja Zaib Shah (Malaysia): I join earlier speakers in thanking the President of the General Assembly for convening today's meeting to consider the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on its ninth session (A/70/714) and the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) (A/70/715).

Malaysia welcomes this morning's adoption of resolution 70/262, on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. Malaysia commends Ambassador Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola, and Ambassador Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia, co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, for their tireless efforts and commitment in steering the process towards the successful adoption of the joint resolutions by the General Assembly and the Security Council (resolution 70/262 and resolution 2282 (2016), respectively). We are pleased with the comprehensive, transparent and inclusive approach undertaken by the co-facilitators and the constructive spirit and flexibility demonstrated by all delegations during the negotiations.

Malaysia is confident that the adoption — and, more important, the subsequent implementation — of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture will provide for a significant and positive shift in the PBC's approach, in particular with regard to its advisory role and in sustaining peace. The scope and nature of the challenge of sustaining peace require close and strategic partnerships among the United Nations, Governments and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector, taking into account their national priorities and policies.

The review comes at a crucial juncture when growing calls have been made on the need to address fragmentation in the efforts of the United Nations system and on the importance of building coherence in our collective efforts across the three pillars of the United Nations, namely, peace and security, development and human rights, at the intergovernmental and operational levels. As a member of the PBC, Malaysia is encouraged by the Commission's continued engagement with States not on its formal agenda, namely, Burkina Faso, Papua New Guinea and Somalia, which demonstrates that the PBC has the flexibility to engage outside the predetermined scope of its mandate.

The Commission was also able to adopt a successful regional approach in supporting United Nations efforts to respond to the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa. Such engagement indicates that the PBC possesses a latent ability to respond using a preventive approach. My delegation believes that the outcome of the review of the peacebuilding architecture recognizes that potential and that the Commission should consider taking and strengthening the necessary measures in that regard. We are also confident that the PBC will be able to strengthen its crisis-prevention role in the long term, which would contribute to the deepening of the culture of prevention. Investments in the prevention of outbreaks and their escalation and in the recurrence of conflicts are less expensive and more sustainable as compared to merely responding to crises.

Malaysia is of the view that the conclusion of the review processes of the peacebuilding architecture, the United Nations peacekeeping operations and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) provide an opportunity for the United Nations to better address the issue of fragmentation and to promote better synergy, coordination and complementarity in the work of the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies and mechanisms towards achieving the core objective of promoting and sustaining peace.

My delegation would like to underscore the need for the implementation of the review of the peacebuilding architecture and its outcome to be aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). The eradication of hunger and poverty, as well as economic revitalization and stabilization, including by increasing the revenue-generating capacity of countries in transition, must count among the core objective of peacebuilding initiatives. At the same time, we support efforts to strengthen the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding. Therefore, the overall post-conflict peacebuilding effort should incorporate inclusive approaches and policies that involve all stakeholders in conflict-affected countries.

There is no doubt that building a lasting peace requires predictable, sustained and adequate financing to address the root causes of conflicts. While Malaysia acknowledges that the role of the PBF in providing financing to countries has been important, nevertheless its impact has been very limited. We recognize the need to establish strategic partnerships, ensure full funding and establish blended financing from the United Nations, bilateral and international donors, multilateral financial institutions and the private sector to maximize the impact of peacebuilding efforts.

In conclusion, we envisage that the overall outcome of the review of the peacebuilding architecture will provide an opportunity for the United Nations to improve the mandate and functioning of the PBC, which is a unique entity with enormous potential.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate the President on his steering of the work of the General Assembly. We also take this opportunity to congratulate the Permanent Representative of Australia, Ambassador Gillian Bird, and the Permanent Representative of Angola, Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins, as well as their respective teams, for the successful work as co-facilitators of the joint resolution entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture", which was adopted by consensus this morning by the General Assembly and the Security Council (resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016), respectively). We would also like to express our most sincere thanks for the untiring work carried out by the delegation of Bangladesh as the coordinator of the working group on peacebuilding of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

With the adoption of these resolutions, we are sealing our commitment to put into practice the recommendations that came about as a result of the review of the peacebuilding architecture. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is proud of having played an active role in the process of drafting the resolution and of having organized on 23 February, when we presided over the Security Council, an open debate on the theme "Post-conflict peacebuilding: review of the peacebuilding architecture" (see S/PV.7629).

Today we are considering the report (A/70/714) of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session and the Secretary-General's report (A/70/715) on the Peacebuilding Fund. In that regard, we would like to commend the work carried out by the former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Permanent Representative of Sweden, Ambassador Olof Skoog. We wish the current Chair of the Commission, the Permanent Representative of Kenya, Ambassador Kamau, every success.

The Ebola crisis and the resumption of conflict in many countries throughout the world taught us some important lessons about the process of peacebuilding, some of which have been encapsulated in the far-reaching and substantive report (see S/2015/490) of the Advisory Group of Experts headed by Ambassador Gert Rosenthal. We find major objectives and changes emerging from that review.

On the one hand, we must make preventing the resumption of conflicts in countries a United Nations priority, while taking into account the fact that peacebuilding is inherently a political process that requires sustained support and attention. On the other hand, we must always act on the premise that peace can arise solely from within societies and that Governments and national authorities must assume full responsibility for peacebuilding processes. At the same time, we should emphasize the fact that sustaining peace encompasses a process for developing a common vision within a society, taking into account all sectors of the population. We must also underscore to a greater degree the resumption of sustainable development in conflict-affected countries. We cannot hope to build peace when we ignore the needs of a population attempting to meet the most basic socioeconomic requirements, to obtain the simple means to earn a living and to put in place the groundwork for development that is inclusive, sustainable and fair, and ensures social justice. Therefore, we need to give the population ways to incorporate in the economy and in society the means to create the foundations of inclusive, sustainable and just growth, which must be part of the whole peacebuilding process.

To that end, we should establish preferential and differentiated conditions in the international financial system in order to directly provide support to countries where war has ceased and where there is no desire to return to conflict. We must ensure that those countries emerging from conflicts are provided with the means for capacity-building, managing their own natural resources and managing their own economies. It is necessary for our countries and more important than support from this or that donor. Finally, we must acknowledge the fundamental role played by the Peacebuilding Commission in fostering a consistent focus among political actors — those dealing with relevant security and development efforts, both within and beyond the United Nations.

The Ebola crisis served to reveal the challenges linked to peacebuilding and to highlight the Commission's potential role in promoting security and development policies and providing international support and a sustained political focus on mobilizing resources and alliances with international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as in encouraging consistency among political actors dealing with the relevant security and development issues both within and beyond the United Nations. In Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Commission played an important role by providing a rapid response by the international community and other parts of the United Nations system, in particular with regard to the risks posed by the crisis to the achievements in peacebuilding in those three affected countries. The early leadership of the Commission was strengthened by funding from the Peacebuilding Fund, thereby making it possible to cover various funding shortfalls in areas where political and social tensions were emerging in the affected countries.

The Ebola crisis also revealed the extensive and ongoing challenge of reducing poverty, providing access to education and jobs for youth. It showed clearly that sustaining peace and minimizing the risk of a resumption of conflict required a continuing investment in those areas over time and measures to bolster confidence in State institutions. As also shown, the Peacebuilding Commission can play an ambitious role in preventing the outbreak, intensification, continuation and recurrence of conflicts by dealing with the deep-rooted causes driving them. However, certain conditions must first be in place in order to carry out that task effectively and in a sustained fashion. On the one hand, it is vital that peacebuilding activities carried out by the United Nations, and in particular by the Peacebuilding Commission, be able to count on predictable and ongoing funding. On the other hand, the Commission should adopt more flexible and innovative working methods so that it is able to study regional and intersectoral issues that are pertinent to sustaining peace. In addition, the Commission should establish much more well-defined synergy with the Peacebuilding Fund. It should focus on joint strategic planning within the entire United Nations system, with an emphasis on long-term cooperation in conflict-affected countries. Lastly, the Peacebuilding Support Office should be revitalized as one of the central pillars of the entire peacebuilding architecture.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to the achievement of Latin America and the Caribbean in building a new zone of peace with an architecture of regional organizations that were established and revitalized our leaders — the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas, the Union of South American Nations, PetroCaribe, the Southern Common Market, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the Special Initiative for Governance in Africa and the Caribbean Community. That achievement is proof of what countries can do when they deal with issues using their own vision and on the basis of inclusive leading models of participatory democracy, with absolute respect for the sovereignty of countries and the principle of non-interference.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): We have heard the last speaker in the joint debate on agenda items 31 and 110.

(*spoke in English*)

The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 31 and 110.

Before proceeding to agenda item 175, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration", I should like to consult the Assembly on a matter pertaining to the rules of procedure.

As agenda item 175 was included on the agenda of the seventieth session of the General Assembly at its 92nd plenary meeting, held on 26 April, in order to take up that item today, it will be necessary to waive the relevant provisions of rule 15 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

> "No additional item may, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until seven days have elapsed since it was placed on the agenda".

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to waive the relevant provision of rule 15 of the rules of procedure?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 175 (*continued*)

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

Draft resolution (A/70/L.46)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.46, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.46 without a vote?

Draft resolution A/70/L.46 was adopted (resolution 70/263).

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to conclude this stage of its consideration of agenda item 175?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

United Nations A/70/PV.95

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

95th plenary meeting

Friday, 13 May 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Lykketoft .... (Denmark)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections

(c) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Note by the Secretary-General (A/70/859)

The President: I invite members to turn their attention to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/70/859. In his note, the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly that in its decision 60/409, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, elected Mr. Achim Steiner as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for a four-year term of office, beginning on 15 June 2006 and ending on 14 June 2010.

In its decision 64/420, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, the Assembly re-elected Mr. Achim Steiner for an additional four-year term of office, beginning on 15 June 2010 and ending on 14 June 2014. In its decision 68/416, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, the Assembly re-elected Mr. Steiner for an additional two-year term, beginning on 15 June 2014 and ending on 14 June 2016.

In accordance with section II, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 2997 of the twenty-seventh session, of 15 December 1972, and following a thorough review and evaluation of the candidates proposed to succeed Mr. Steiner, the Secretary-General wishes to nominate Mr. Erik Solheim for election as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for a term of four years, beginning on 15 June 2016 and ending on 14 June 2020.

Accordingly, may I take it that the General Assembly wishes to elect Mr. Erik Solheim as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for a term of four years, beginning on 15 June 2016 and ending on 14 June 2020?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c)of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: In order for the General Assembly to consider the report of the Fifth Committee under the sub-item, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 114. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 114 and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

The President: Accordingly, the General Assembly shall now resume its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 114.

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Agenda item 114 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/540/Add.1)

The President: The General Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee concerning a vacancy in the membership of Committee on Contributions as a result of the resignation of Mr. Kunal Khatri of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In paragraph 3 of the report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Simon Hough of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a member of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 13 May 2016 and ending on 31 December 2017.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint Mr. Simon Hough as a member of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 13 May 2016 and ending on 31 December 2017?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 114.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly held its debate and concluded its consideration on agenda item 78 at its 49th plenary meeting, on 6 November 2015.

In order for the General Assembly to take action on the draft resolution, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 78, "Report of the International Criminal Court". May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of agenda item 78 and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 78 (*continued*)

Report of the International Criminal Court

Draft resolution (A/70/L.47)

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands to introduce draft resolution A/70/L.21.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): I have the honour to introduce, under agenda item 78, draft resolution A/70/L.47, entitled "Report of the International Criminal Court".

In addition to the 62 countries listed in document A/70/L.47, 17 countries have indicated their wish to be included as sponsors of the draft resolution. It is my understanding that the Secretariat will read out the names of the countries involved. This brings the total number of sponsors to 79.

On 5 November 2015, following in the footsteps of her illustrious predecessors, the third President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, presented the eleventh annual report of the International Criminal Court (see A/70/350) to this body (see A/70/PV.48). Once again we had a very constructive and in-depth debate that revolved around three basic elements: universality, cooperation and complementarity.

First, with regard to universality, in order to bolster the Court's success in fulfilling its mandate, universal adherence to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court remains essential. This year, we welcomed El Salvador as the latest State to accede to the Rome Statute, bringing the number of States parties to 124. It is our sincere hope that others will join in the near future. It is our firm opinion that all those that are committed to holding the perpetrators of international crimes to account should show no hesitation and become parties to the Rome Statute. Universal adherence to the Rome Statute is the only way to guarantee that perpetrators of the most horrible acts imaginable can no longer count on impunity.

My second point is on cooperation. Let me highlight that the situation with respect to the outstanding arrest warrants remains worrying. President Fernández de Gurmendi reminded us that the Court relies heavily on the cooperation of States and organizations at every step of the process — from investigation to arrests, from witness protection to the enforcement of sentences.

If States do not provide the cooperation necessary for the Court's functioning, in accordance with their legal obligations, the Court will not be able to fulfil its mandate and impunity will continue to flourish. The cooperation of States, international organizations and civil society remains essential.

We are pleased that the United Nations has continued to assist the Court in its endeavours through implementation of the Relationship Agreement. We have noted that the Court has expressed gratitude for the support it has received from the United Nations, but we have also heard its requests for attention to the ongoing challenges the Court is facing due to a lack of full cooperation. The only way to make progress towards our common goal of ending impunity is for all States, the United Nations, regional organizations and civil society to work together. We therefore commend the Court for expanding its interaction and cooperation with other international and regional organizations, institutions and entities all over the world.

My third point is about complementarity. The principle of complementarity is a hallmark of the Court, of course. The primary responsibility to comply with their obligations under the Rome Statute lies with national authorities. It is also their responsibility to address cases that involve crimes under the Court's jurisdiction. If the national authorities are able to do that effectively, the Court's investigations become superfluous. In view of the Court's massive workload, all States can do a better job in that regard, not only by improving the prevention of international crimes and the protection of civilians, but also by prosecuting the perpetrators of such crimes.

To conclude discussion of this issue, the eleventh report of the International Criminal Court and the ensuing debate once again emphasized the role of the Court in upholding the rule of law and human rights, but also in promoting peace and security. Sustainable peace cannot be achieved if the perpetrators of the most serious crimes go unpunished. Peace and justice remain complementary requirements, and together they serve as a trigger for development.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands continues to take pride in being the host State for the International Criminal Court. On 19 April, the Court moved to its permanent location, and in the presence of His Majesty King Willem Alexander, the Secretary-General, the principals of the Court and many other dignitaries, the inauguration ceremony of the new premises took place. As Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, said at the event, the Court owes its existence to two basic human instincts: empathy and a collective resolve — empathy for victims and their loved ones, and the collective resolve to work together and shape our common future to ensure peace and justice. To put that empathy and resolve to the best possible use, we must all work together with the Court, for the sake of those victims and their loved ones, and for future generations.

The Netherlands reiterates its commitment to being a partner in the pursuit of peace, justice and development. Those three fundamental pillars are inseparable and form the cornerstone of the work of the Kingdom of the Netherlands here, within the United Nations.

I will now turn to the draft resolution itself, which continues to serve three main objectives. The first is to provide political support for the International Criminal Court, its mandate, its aims and the work it does. The second is to underline the importance of the relationship between the Court and the United Nations on the basis of the Relationship Agreement and the two bodies' central role in ending impunity and upholding human rights. Lastly, it serves to remind States and international and regional organizations of the necessity of cooperating with the International Criminal Court as it carries out its tasks.

The Netherlands presents draft resolution A/70/L.47 to the Assembly today with the desire that it once again be adopted by consensus. I hope that it will contribute to continued and even greater support for the Court in its fight against impunity and its efforts to hold the perpetrators of serious crimes accountable for their actions. Let us all continue to work together for peace and justice.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/70/L.47.

Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position before action is taken on the draft resolution, I would like to remind delegations that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): During the prolonged negotiation process, our delegation repeatedly urged that we work together on a pragmatic approach to the draft resolution before us today (A/70/L.47) and to our efforts to finalize it. It is regrettable that not everyone supported our constructive attitude. The amendments proposed by States that are not party to the Rome Statute were ignored.

In our view, such amendments are long overdue. The majority of the optimism-drenched provisions that are mechanically transferred, year after year, from one resolution on the report of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to the next have little in common today with the real state of affairs both in and around the Court. In the ICC's early years, however, such passages seemed more of an expression of the hopes that the international community had placed in the new judicial body. The Court was loudly proclaimed to be a new chapter in the history of international criminal justice, heir to the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals.

As time has shown, however, the Court has clearly not inherited the Tribunals' efficiency. The entire Nuremberg process was completed in the course of a year. In the almost 15 years of its existence, the ICC has handed down only four convictions, at a cost of more than $1 billion. It has worked significantly quickly only once, in 2011, when in just a few days, right when the NATO bombing of Libya began, it transitioned from a preliminary examination of the situation referred to it by the Security Council to a formal investigation of Muammar Al-Qadhafi.

And yet the long decade of civilian deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan is still at the preliminary examination stage. The perpetrators have not been named. The Prosecutor of the Court has recused herself from investigating the issue of civilian casualties of the NATO bombing strikes in Libya. There has been no visible progress in investigating the acts of insurgents. Such selectivity is hardly good for the image of any court with claims to impartiality and independence.

And the Court has procedural problems as well. We need only recall instances when cases that the Prosecutor had been investigating for years almost literally fell apart either because witnesses refused to testify or because the judges had to admit that their testimony was not credible. More than once, the poor quality of the evidence resulted in the Court's resources and time being spent in vain. On the Darfur file, the Court disregarded the international legal standards regarding immunity for State officials. In that regard, we understand the concerns that have been voiced by African States individually and the African Union as a whole. We continue to hold the view that the mere fact of the transfer by the Security Council of a case to the ICC does not strip away the immunity of officials of States that are not party to the Rome Statute. In such cases, the standards of international law are still fully applicable.

Finally, and probably most importantly, it is difficult to name even one case where the ICC would have made a real contribution to stabilizing the situation, ending the violence and mitigating the fate of the civilian population. The results of its five years of activity in Libya are particularly revealing in that regard.

Despite those issues, a number of delegations still refuse to allow anything in the General Assembly resolution other than praise and enthusiasm for the ICC. Its shortcomings were previously ascribed to the Court's infancy; now it is deemed to be at a difficult age. Calls for a balanced approach and realism are interpreted as a step backwards. That approach has meant, for example, that the draft resolution does not reflect something so obvious, from the standpoint of international treaty law, as the lack of obligations under the Rome Statute — including regarding cooperation with the ICC — on States that are not party to it. Such an attitude to the negotiation process on the part of States that are party to the Statute is likely to put a stake through the heart of the practice of adopting the resolution by consensus. It does not help the Court, either. The lack of truthful assessments of its activity prevents the Court from dealing soberly with the serious shortcomings of its work.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize once again that with every passing year the resolution has less and less relationship to reality. In fact, it has become a funhouse mirror. My delegation therefore cannot support the text and we dissociate ourselves from the consensus on the draft resolution.

Mr. Saeed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): The Sudan would like to reaffirm the lofty goals that are the pillars of the United Nations: the maintenance of international peace and security, sustainable development and the protection and promotion of human rights, as well as dialogue, based on international cooperation, aimed at strengthening relations among States and achieving the peaceful settlement of disputes. In order to reach those goals, the Charter of the United Nations lays down principles that guarantee full respect for States' sovereignty, non-interference in their domestic affairs and political independence, and territorial integrity. It also proposes international cooperation as a means of dealing with political and economic challenges and avoiding the use or threat of use of force in international relations.

We all agree that fighting impunity is a major objective in honouring and respecting justice, and it is a key responsibility for judicial bodies with a mandate to tackle such issues in accordance with their internal rules. Politicizing global justice in order to make it a kind of channel for attaining narrow goals runs counter to the joint efforts of the international community to apply justice and uphold the objectives of the Charter's purposes and principles. It also violates rather than strengthens the principles of international law, which is a key purpose of the United Nations.

I recall that the relationship between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court must take into account the independent and completely separate natures of the two bodies. No structural relationship should exist between them. The attempts of some States parties to the Court to make the General Assembly an assembly of States parties to the Rome Statute, which created the Court, are extremely worrying. My delegation has always categorically rejected that position, which is clearly reflected in the text that appears year after year. Time and again, the sponsors of the draft resolution try to put forward proposals for broadened interpretations that fail to reflect the spirit and the text of the report of the International Criminal Court. The report has a clear goal that should not be used to attain narrow goals within the United Nations.

The International Criminal Court is not a subsidiary body of the United Nations. It is an independent body under the Rome Statute. Within the framework of the bodies dealing with the Court's issues, it is out of the question to try to tie the two together. The Sudan will continue to stand up for that position and to call for respect for the Relationship Agreement between the Court and the United Nations, without allowing an expanded or mistaken interpretation of it. When informal discussions were held this year, some Member States resisted dealing with some issues raised by the Sudan concerning States that are not party to the Statute. Those proposals were rejected by the States parties to the Statute without explanation, but they were proposed only by States not party to the Statute, and that appears to be the only possible explanation.

The practices of the Court have revealed the ways in which it is becoming a tool of international conflict, a mechanism for politicization that is entirely focused on Africa and on targeting Africa's leaders. The African people see it as a court for powerful people to target and oppress the less powerful, while the problem of crimes being committed all over the world continues. Why does the Court fail to address those scandals? In theory, it is a global, international court, and it should be fighting impunity regardless of where it occurs. That is why my delegation is raising questions about the principles of integrity, impartiality and independence, and once again we get no answers.

The Court's current situation provides a logical, Cartesian response, which is that it has a unique mandate to target African countries, and only African countries. When President Museveni of Uganda was sworn in as President in Kampala on 12 May in a ceremony attended by President Hassan Al-Bashir of the Sudan, he reaffirmed in his statement the degree to which the Court targets the African continent and its States and leaders, as well as the importance for Africa's adopting a shared position against such practices. Mr. Museveni's statement is a reflection of the strong position taken by the African Union, its leaders and people against the Court's practices. That was evident in the questions raised by Kenya and the Sudan.

The relationship between the Court and the Security Council clearly polarizes the work of the Court. It is unacceptable to see political interests advanced through a judicial body. The Security Council is the organ mandated to refer some issues regarding States to a tribunal and to reject others. We all know who pays for that. A close relationship exists between certain political interests and various judicial bodies, and when that happens, such bodies do not adhere to proper legal principles. The Secretary-General's report must respect the content, spirit and text of the Rome Statute without expanding its interpretation of it or delving into political or politicized issues.

My delegation would like to express its concern about such interference with the International Criminal Court, about the Court's flagrant interference in the work of the General Assembly, and the repeated attempts to get General Assembly representatives to deal with Member States as if the Assembly were working for the Court and subordinate to it. We are not the only ones to voice such concern about the harmful effect of voluntary contributions to the Court's work and budget. We know who is funding the Court.

Among countries of which we are all aware, there is a persistent lack of clarity. One of those issues is complementarity, and the first President of the Court has referred to "positive" complementarity. That issue has always been a channel for an expanded political interpretation, which prompted a European foreign minister to state that the Court's mandate did not apply to his country. He was correct. Its mandate targets only small and weak countries. States that are not party to the Rome Statute manipulate and use it as a tool for imposing their own foreign policy, in testimony to the Court's politicization. They are not parties to the Statute, yet they use the Court to advance their foreign policy aims.

In conclusion, we must all endeavour to work together to deliver justice and combat impunity through appropriate and honest judicial bodies. We cannot engage with the International Criminal Court when the Sudan is not a State party to it. In that regard, the Sudan has no concerns whatever about the draft resolution to be adopted today by the General Assembly. It does not apply to us and it requires no commitment on our part.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position before action is taken on the draft resolution.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/70/L.47, entitled "Report of the International Criminal Court". I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of draft resolution A/70/L.47, and in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Madagascar, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/70/L.47?

Draft resolution A/70/L.47 was adopted (resolution 70/264).

The President: Before giving the floor to those wishing to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted, I would like to remind delegations that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Argüello González (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): The International Criminal Court was founded with the aim of judging crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and to ensure that justice for such crimes would prevail. However, that goal has been undermined by those who want to see their interests prevail over the safeguarding of national sovereignty and the principles of non-interference and non-intervention. Nicaragua rejects the double standards by which the International Criminal Court has acted to date. The Court does not judge all countries equally and only one continent has been affected by its judgements.

We would like to point out that Nicaragua is not a party to the International Criminal Court, but we consider our participation in the negotiations on today's resolution 70/264 to be of vital importance, because we are dealing with an issue on the United Nations agenda, and specifically that of the General Assembly, of which 193 States are members with equal rights. It is also crucial to ensure that non-party States participate actively in the negotiations. In the inspiring words of our President, Mr. Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the United Nations must fulfil its role of promoting dialogue, respect, understanding, sovereign security, peace and a future, without interference or influence, and by working on an equal footing — that is, with everyone, for everyone and for the good of everyone. May that be so.

Mr. Kamau (Kenya): Kenya acknowledges today's adoption of resolution 70/264, entitled "Report of the International Criminal Court", and we would like to thank the coordinator for steering the lengthy negotiations.

At the outset, we should recall the independent and separate nature of the relationship between the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the United Nations. Save for the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, there is no structural relationship between the two institutions. As the only General Assembly resolution that deals with the two institutions' relationship, the resolution we have adopted today should address the most pressing challenges to the benefit of both partners and should neither be used to convert the General Assembly into an assembly of parties to the Rome Statute nor to Balkanize the United Nations membership into diametrically opposed groups on matters related to the Rome Statute.

In principle, treaties are binding only on State parties. According to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the obligations of non-party States differ from those of State parties. That ought to be obvious. That is precisely why in many aspects, the Rome Statute makes different provisions for State parties and for non-States parties.

My delegation is frustrated by the process and the outcome of our negotiations this year. As one of the two African States parties that actively participated in this year's negotiations, Kenya notes that this technical rollover is largely attributed to the lack of flexibility of position adopted by some members and the rejection of the views of other members — even when those views were clearly informed by treaty law and practice.

Consequently, Kenya is of the considered opinion that the proposal made by a Member State on the obligations of non-States parties was consistent with international law, its interpretation and its application. Therefore, during the negotiations, the request by that Member State should have been accepted without any challenge whatsoever. Accordingly, we recognize and applaud the commitment of the delegations that put in extra effort to try to bridge that gap between Member States.

It is sad, but it would seem that some States would like to see the law of the jungle prevail among civilized States. There is a worrying trend whereby powerful States that have little or no regard for the primacy of the principles of international law seek, when and where its suits them, to skew the interpretation and implementation of international law and practice as we know it. As we have said before in this forum, might does not make right. The Rome Statute system must unshackle itself from the group of States that represent an ethos and jurisprudential paradigm that represents only one segment of the Assembly of States Parties. That group of States claims and exhibits proprietorship over the ICC and have hijacked the Court's operational mandate, thereby creating a distorted institution.

We want to see a resolution that is consistent with international law and, further, that truly addresses the most pressing challenge facing the two institutions, namely, the financing of the Security Council referrals. The General Assembly should not be prevented from exercising its mandate on this matter, as it is fully empowered to do by the Charter of the United Nations. In realization of the very urgent need to shift our emphasis to issues of seminal importance, we request that going forward, Member States consider changing their focus to best reflect the realities on the ground.

We want to see an interpretation and implementation of the Rome Statute that treats all Member States equally without artificial divisions and categorizations that depict one group as owners and gallant defenders of the ICC and the other group as the subjects of the ICC for which the ICC was established. This deeply pathological state of affairs has to be brought to heel. The artificial dichotomy between defenders and lowly subjects has not achieved much, and there is a need to see a radical change of heart and mind and reformation to ensure a level playing field for all States. Indeed, the survival of the ICC — as I have said here many times — very well depends on our forward movement in that regard.

In that vein, African States have tried to engage constructively with the ICC but, sadly, with little success. Our individual and collective efforts to initiate and develop an enabling environment for constructive dialogue with the ICC has met with marginal success, if not utter failure. While we remain fully committed to the fight against impunity, we are concerned that any attempt to discuss and interrogate our issues publicly and transparently continue to be met with stiff resistance under the guise of protecting the independence of the Court and its organs.

As members, our actions should ensure that the ideals enshrined in the Rome Statute are realized in a manner that the original drafters and authors envisaged. More importantly, our actions should ensure that this resolution is negotiated, interpreted and implemented in a manner that is consistent with the law while recognizing the social, cultural, economic and political realities that the world faces today.

In conclusion, peace and justice are what we all seek. Kenya is an unstinting champion of both. We believe in peace and justice. But, peace and justice cannot be founded on a deeply flawed institution that creates false hope among millions of people who have had their human rights abused and their lives destroyed by ruthless individuals and powerful global and national powers. Kenya therefore calls for a complete overhaul of the negotiation process, the philosophical outlook and outcomes of this resolution. We hope that we will be able to embark on a better process in the future and to agree on a text of improved quality and greater relevance — a text that truly addresses the human rights that we all seek to uphold.

Mrs. Diéguez La O (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Our country reaffirms its intention to combat impunity, and maintains its commitment to international criminal justice, its attachment to the principles of transparency, independence and impartiality, and the unrestricted implementation of and respect for international law.

Cuba believes that it is appropriate that the International Criminal Court inform the General Assembly of its activities, as established in the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court. Our country, although not a party to the Court, has been and is prepared to continue its active participation in negotiations of the resolution on the report of the International Criminal Court, which is adopted every year by the General Assembly, including just a few moments ago (resolution 70/264).

However, bearing in mind the nature of the resolution and its adoption within the General Assembly — a body of the United Nations that includes both States parties to the Rome Statute as well as non-party States with equal rights — it is indispensable that the negotiation of the resolution weigh and take into account the opinions and concerns of all the States members of the General Assembly.

Mr. Li Yongsheng (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China welcomes the adoption of resolution 70/264, on the report of the International Criminal Court by the General Assembly.

China believes that the technical rollover reflects the compromise reached during the previous sessions of the General Assembly on the resolution. China joined the consensus. China attaches importance to the role of the International Criminal Court in safeguarding world peace, security, justice and prosecuting serious international crimes.

China hopes that the Court will perform its functions justly and avoid any politicization and judicial selectivity while ensuring that criminal justice is not achieved at the expense of peace, stability and national reconciliation. The Court and the United Nations are independent, although related, organizations. Cooperation between the two organizations should be conducted strictly in line with the Charter of the United Nations, the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court and other relevant legal frameworks while respecting their respective mandates. The rights of non-party States to the Rome Statute should be fully respected, in accordance with international law.

Mr. Scappini Ricciardi (Paraguay), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. Aldahhak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic is convinced of the importance of justice. It is for that reason alone that we were among the countries that actively contributed to negotiations on the Rome Statute, which led to the establishment of the International Criminal Court. My country was also among the first signatories to the Rome Statute. Our perspective has always been based on the importance of international justice being truly just in every sense of the word — free from politicization, selectivity and double standards. Unfortunately, that has not been achieved, as evidenced by a number of international issues, which I will not go into here.

Justice is a whole unto itself and should be exhaustive in order to ensure that those responsible within State Governments that work to destabilize other States, interfere in their internal affairs and bring down their regimes through the support of terrorism and violent extremism, the spread of chaos and destruction, and the shedding of innocent blood are brought to justice. We should avoid undermining the lofty principle of justice and tailoring it to the will of powerful States and their allies, as that is liable to undermine international relations and the very foundation of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Justice cannot be transformed into a tool only used by the powerful against the poor or the weak. That would be a concrete expression of the law of the jungle 70 years after the establishment of the United Nations, and a century after the League of Nations and a number of international organizations that were founded to do away with the law of the jungle.

In conclusion, my country's delegation reaffirms its unswerving support for the statements made by the representatives of the Russian Federation and the Sudan. We support them and emphasize that we reject resolution 70/264 and the paragraphs contained therein.

Mr. Mendoza-García (Costa Rica): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Paraguay, Romania, Switzerland, Slovenia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and my own country, Costa Rica.

At the outset, we wish to reiterate our strong and outright support for the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC is the most significant achievement of the international community in its quest to put an end to impunity for mass atrocities, regardless of who commits them, and to provide justice to the victims.

Because these are global goals, the world demands that no State allow room for impunity. We celebrate El Salvador's accession to the Rome Statute, which brings the number of States parties to 124, and reiterate the importance of continuing to promote the Statute's universality. In joining the Rome Statute, States do not only support the International Criminal Court, but also undertake the obligation to investigate and prosecute the most serious crimes at the national level — a key contribution to ending impunity. The ICC is designed as a court of last resort, and it becomes active only where national judiciaries fail to do their work.

We welcome the consensual adoption at the seventieth session of the General Assembly of resolution 70/264, on the report of the International Criminal Court (see A/70/350), as well as the substantial number of sponsors. The resolution constitutes an important avenue to strengthen and improve the implementation of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, which was approved by consensus by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

It is the task of all United Nations Members — irrespective of their relationship with the ICC — to follow up by adequately reflecting the ongoing cooperation between the two institutions, while addressing the most pressing challenges, for the benefit of both partners. In that regard, we believe it is very unfortunate that we were not able to advance the resolution this year. However, that should not stop us from addressing the challenges reflected in the annual report of the Court (see A/70/350).

Currently, there are a number of challenges. Cooperation between the United Nations and the ICC needs to be strengthened, and United Nations offices, funds and programmes should collaborate effectively with the Office of Legal Affairs as the focal point for such cooperation. The Secretary-General's guidance on contacts with persons who are subject to arrest warrants or summonses issued by the ICC are important and need to be implemented consistently.

The Court requires adequate financial resources to fulfil its mandate, and it is under constant budgetary pressure. We find it worrisome that it continues to carry out activities as a result of decisions made by the Security Council, but with no support from the United Nations budget. The General Assembly should therefore ensure the implementation of article 13, paragraph 1, of the Relationship Agreement.

With regard to referrals, our delegations believe that the Security Council should be consistent and coherent in its use of referrals and establish legally sound language for the referral of situations to the Court. That entails avoiding the inclusion of jurisdictional exceptions that go against the principle of equality before the law and endanger its own credibility and that of the Court. Furthermore, it is up to the Council to enforce its own decisions, which requires effective follow-up. In addition, we encourage the Council to consistently mandate the relevant peacekeeping missions to assist the Court in fulfilling its mandate.

The Rome Statute system is growing. The Court is extending its jurisdictional reach and is currently dealing with more cases and situations than ever before. Also, the relationship with the United Nations is becoming an even closer one, whether it is about technical support for ICC staff in situation countries or the exchange of information and good practices. Nevertheless, our job is not done, and all members need to continue to work together in order to fight impunity. We are committed to continue doing our part. We call upon all State parties to do the same.

Mr. Zamora Rivas (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): El Salvador co-sponsored resolution 70/264, on the report (see A/70/350) of the International Criminal Court as a way of expressing its support for the Court and our strong commitment to the values that motivated its establishment. As evidence of this, on 3 March, in an emotional act of historical relevance for our country, the Republic of El Salvador deposited with the Secretariat its instrument of accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its two amendments adopted in Kampala. In doing so we became the 124th State party to the Rome Statute and twenty-ninth State party to the amendments to articles 8 and 27, on the crime of aggression. This is a clear demonstration of our willingness to contribute to the strengthening of the universalization of international criminal justice for heinous crimes, and our recognition of the work that the Court has carried out since its establishment.

We are not blind; we know the Court must improve and make progress. That applies to all institutions, beginning with our own — the General Assembly. However, it is one thing to ask for change and progress in international justice for this type of crime, but it is very different to try to surreptitiously establish, under the Vienna Convention, universal impunity for specific people. That destroys the principle we all aspire to that there could be a possible and future universal jurisdiction for crimes against humanity and similar crimes. We believe that the Court has already begun to issue its first judgements on the matters under its competence, thereby providing tangible proof that it is possible to close the gaps for impunity and that, when the national criminal justice system does not work, it is possible to activate the international criminal justice system.

The Republic of El Salvador is aware that great achievements have been made, but we also recognize that a great deal remains to be done, that we have a path beset with challenges and opportunities to advance this process, which has been undertaken and which opens the door to the prosecution of serious human rights violations and to the possibility of judging those who have committed crimes under the Rome Statute and, even more important, to the existence of a deterrent to the commission of these types of crimes.

We cannot ask the Court, with its resolution, to be a peacemaker. That is a role that we in the United Nations have to play. The Court's role is essentially to make clear through its judgements that serious and massive violations of human rights cannot be repeated and or increase and must be prevented.

I would like to conclude my statement by reiterating the deep commitment and support of my country to the work of the International Criminal Court. We urge those that have not ratified the Rome Statute and its two amendments to continue their process of analysis with a view to achieve in the near future full universality with the aim of promoting justice and peace among all people on the planet.

Mr. Luna (Brazil): Brazil welcomes the consensual adoption of resolution 70/264, on the report of the International Criminal Court (ICC). My country co-sponsored it as a means of expressing its unwavering support for the Court and our steadfast commitment to the values that motivated its establishment. The increased number of sponsors is another clear demonstration of the support that combating impunity for the most serious international crimes has in the General Assembly.

My delegation would have welcomed, however, a more ambitious text than a technical update of the resolution adopted during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The distance between this resolution and the challenges faced in the relationship between the United Nations and the ICC is not decreasing. We hope that, through continued transparent and inclusive dialogue, we can reverse this trend at the seventy-first session and deliver a text truly deserving of our shared goal of promoting the universalization of access to peace, security and justice.

I would like to reiterate my delegation's growing concern on an issue of a structural nature that relates to the core of the relationship between the Court and the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly. Despite the clear guidance provided by article 13 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the ICC in the sense that the United Nations must bear the costs of investigations and cases related to referrals by the Security Council, the Assembly has once again limited itself to merely acknowledging the fact that those expenses continue to be borne exclusively by States parties to the Rome Statute. It is regrettable that the resolution does not call upon Member States to actually address this issue. At a time when the Court faces an unprecedented workload and Security Council members frequently entertain the idea of referring situations to the ICC, we must objectively reflect on the sustainability of a system in which the costs of the implementation of such a decision are met solely by the States parties to the Rome Statute. It is also important to bear in mind that the General Assembly has the exclusive responsibility over the consideration and approval of the budget of the Organization, as laid out in article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Every new ratification of the Rome Statute is an important step towards the promotion of peace and justice. Brazil welcomes the recent accession of El Salvador to the Rome Statute and hopes that it serves to encourage others to become parties. Enhancing the universality of the ICC is a means of promoting peace and justice and of addressing a key international dimension of the rule of law that all States should commit to. International criminal justice should apply to all.

Mr. Ruiz Blanco (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Colombia, faithful to its commitments as a State party to the Rome Statute, today once again demonstrates its unwavering will to support the work carried out by the International Criminal Court by co-sponsoring resolution 70/264, which we adopted today, on the report (see A/70/350) of the International Criminal Court to the General Assembly.

The unswerving struggle of the Colombian State against impunity and its defence of the rule of law have been repeated on many occasions, even from the very start of discussions about the need to set up a permanent court that would contribute to taking up the most serious crimes committed against the international community as a whole.

Almost 14 years have passed since the entry into force of the Rome Statute and, since then, as demonstrated in the report that the Court has submitted to the Assembly for consideration, the purpose of that institution — to prevent heinous crimes from going unpunished — has been consolidated and strengthened. Colombia emphatically underscores the importance of supporting the Rome Statute and believes that the best way to do so is by strictly complying with its provisions. Undoubtedly, the universality of this instrument depends on that approach.

Colombia considers it important that Member States recognize that every step taken to bring about the end of armed conflict and reach sustainable and lasting peace needs receive the continuous support of all. Accordingly, Colombia will continue to support the ICC through such tools as the principle of complementarity, which is evident in our initiatives on transitional justice, reparation measures and institutional and legal reforms. In addition, the implementation of the Statute as an instrument of international justice cannot be seen to be in opposition to the achievement of peace, because, as we have argued repeatedly, peace and justice are not mutually exclusive goals. Colombia, which is currently experiencing a crucial moment in its history, is closer than ever to achieving peace, an agreed peace, and one with justice that puts the rights and needs of victims at its centre, and is a clear embodiment of this perspective.

Every State has an obligation to ensure peace in its territory. That obligation is part of its responsibility to maintain order and unity. We are committed to peacebuilding as the sole means by which the full enjoyment of human rights is guaranteed. For us, it is a basic fact that in a situation like that of Colombia, the pursuit of peace for its own sake also works in the interests of justice.

Mr. Horna (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): As a sponsor of resolution 70/264, adopted by consensus today, I wish to reaffirm Peru's commitment to the work undertaken by the International Criminal Court, which we consider to be the institution in the best position to prevent the most serious crimes from going unpunished. However, we reiterate our concern that we were once again faced with a draft text that showed little or no progress since the previous iteration, in spite of the special efforts made by States to hold constructive and fruitful discussions at the seventieth session with a view to achieving a robust resolution that clearly reflected current developments in the context of the relationship that should exist between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations. My delegation would like to recall the persistent problems linked to the financing of the Court, in particular in relation to referrals by the Security Council, which are financed solely by States parties to the Rome Statute and not by all States Members of the Organization, as was established in the Relationship Agreement.

Peru recognizes that international criminal justice continues to be an aspiration and that the International Criminal Court, a young institution in the international arena, needs more support and a high level of cooperation. Such support should come not only from the States parties to the Statute but from all Member States.

Finally, Peru, which belongs to the informal ministerial network for the International Criminal Court, attaches the greatest importance to the universality of the Rome Statute, and therefore wishes to reiterate on this occasion its special pleasure at the recent ratification of the Rome Statute by our brother country El Salvador, which increases the number of States parties to the Statute to 124, thus bringing us closer to universality.

Mr. Tsymbaliuk (Ukraine): Ukraine co-sponsored resolution 70/264, on the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC), whose establishment we consider to be one of the most important human rights achievements in the past century. The ICC is the inarguable cornerstone of the international justice system, with its provisions that state that there can be no impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

Ukraine has demonstrated its support for the system created by the Rome Statute on numerous occasions, starting with its active participation in the 1998 Rome Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, followed by the signing of the Rome Statute, on 20 January 2000. Ukraine was among the first non-State parties to ratify, on 18 October 2006, the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC, an essential mechanism for the effective functioning of the Court, thereby becoming a model for countries that still need to accede to the Agreement. We realize the importance of being a party to that universal legal institution, which combats impunity worldwide.

Ukraine has set the ratification of its own statute incorporating the Rome Statute into domestic law as one of its key priorities. To that end, following the signing of the Rome Statute, Ukraine carefully studied the approaches that other States had taken in tackling the complementarity issues and drafted a relevant amendment to ensure the compatibility of the provisions of the Ukrainian Constitution with the Statute.

We are attentively observing the developments in the field of international criminal justice. We consider the decisions taken at the Kampala Review Conference, in 2010, on, inter alia, amendments to the Rome Statute with respect to the definition of the crime of aggression and to the establishment of a regime of court jurisdiction over this crime, to be an outstanding example of how the international community should tackle the most challenging issues of the modern world — through intense debate and comprehensive scientific research towards a consensus that could not have been reached before the Court was established.

Today, Ukraine is in the final stages of the ratification process of the Rome Statute. In addition, the related package of documents submitted to the Parliament of Ukraine foresees the ratification of two 2010 Kampala amendments as well.

In the light of the current challenging situation in and around Ukraine, we fully recognize the necessity of ensuring the global jurisdiction and legitimacy of and support for the International Criminal Court. Ukraine strictly adheres to the principles of democracy, good governance, justice and the rule of law, and therefore strongly supports the activities of the Court in an effort to ensure universal commitment to fighting impunity.

Starting from 20 February 2014, Ukraine has been a victim of ongoing armed aggression carried out by the Russian Federation and Russia-supported militants and terrorists. As a result, part of its territory, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as several areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, have been occupied. Thousands of Ukrainian nationals have been killed or injured. Infrastructure has been destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forcefully displaced and are seeking refuge. Those acts constitute the most serious crimes against humanity and war crimes, which fall within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

Accordingly, on 8 September 2015, the Government of Ukraine launched a declaration pursuant to article 12, paragraph 3, of the Rome Statute, whereby we accept the exercise of jurisdiction by the ICC in relation to crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by senior officials of the Russian Federation and the leaders of the terrorist organizations DNR and LNR, which have led to extremely grave consequences and the mass murder of Ukrainian nationals.

We believe that the ICC can provide one of the best ways to ensure that the perpetrators of international crimes are brought to justice. There, mass violations of human rights are recognized as such, and victims will receive redress for their suffering.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker on this item.

I give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation, who wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I will be brief. I wish to respond to the statement made by the Ukrainian delegation, which again included a host of anti-Russian insinuations that have nothing to do with the actual situation. We repudiate them as unjustified and irrelevant to the subject of today's meeting. However, since the Ukrainian representative mentioned the declaration that was made by his country in 2015, I should like to draw attention to the fact that it was compiled laboriously in such a way as to attempt to preclude the possibility of an investigation by the International Criminal Court into crimes perpetrated by the Kyiv Government and radicals loyal to that Government, the most flagrant of which is doubtless the tragedy that occurred in Odessa, the second anniversary of which was recently commemorated.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 78?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.